METRO / A25

Suspected UP hazing victim buried in Quezon

CARLO J. CAPARAS
To have and to hold
ARNEL A. AUSTRIA

COMICS / D4

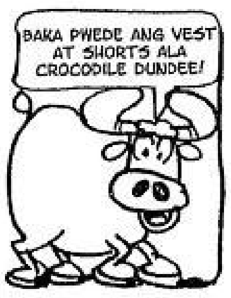
A 'dyario novela' by Carlo J. Caparas starts today

WORLD / A28

US senator in sex solicitation case steps down

IS THIS WEEK YOUR CHANCE TO SAY YES?
see special section

Choice of costume stumps Australia


BAKA PWEDE ANG VEST AT SHORTS ALA CROCODILE DUNDEE!

SYDNEY—DAUNTING security issues aside, one of the biggest headaches facing Australia's Apec summit organizers is how to clothe 21 world leaders in traditional cos-

CHOICE/ A20

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Monday, September 3, 2007 ★★ 10 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 267 P18 website: www.inquire

Bar examinees get pampered by backers

By Leila B. Salaverria

ONE LAW GRADUATE DEFIED DOCTORS' orders for a complete bed rest for a week so she could review for the bar exam.

Others holed up in hotel rooms and stayed glued to their books on the eve of the tests, leaving their errands to law undergraduates.

BAR EXAMINEES/ A13

No climate change targets at Apec

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA—PACIFIC RIM leaders meeting in Australia this week should strike an agreement on fighting global warming, but binding targets on greenhouse gas emissions should not be part of it, the host of the summit said yesterday.

Australian Prime Minister John Howard, laying out reasons for putting global warming on the agenda of the normally trade-focused Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum, said the bloc had an important role to play in building a new global framework on climate change.

But a new approach, Howard said, should ditch the emissions targets in the 1997 Kyoto Protocol on climate change in favor of voluntary strategies that recognize individual nations' varying levels of development.

"Our view is that we need a new flexible framework that includes a long-term global goal and encourages a wide range of national actions by all," she told reporters.

Howard, whose country is among the world's highest emitters of greenhouse gases per capita, has been a key opponent of the Kyoto pact, which expires in 2012. A major UN meeting in Bali, Indonesia, in December will begin working on a successor agreement.

Howard said that Apec leaders would discuss the possibility of setting emissions caps in the future, but that it was "very unlikely" they would agree on a target at this week's meeting.

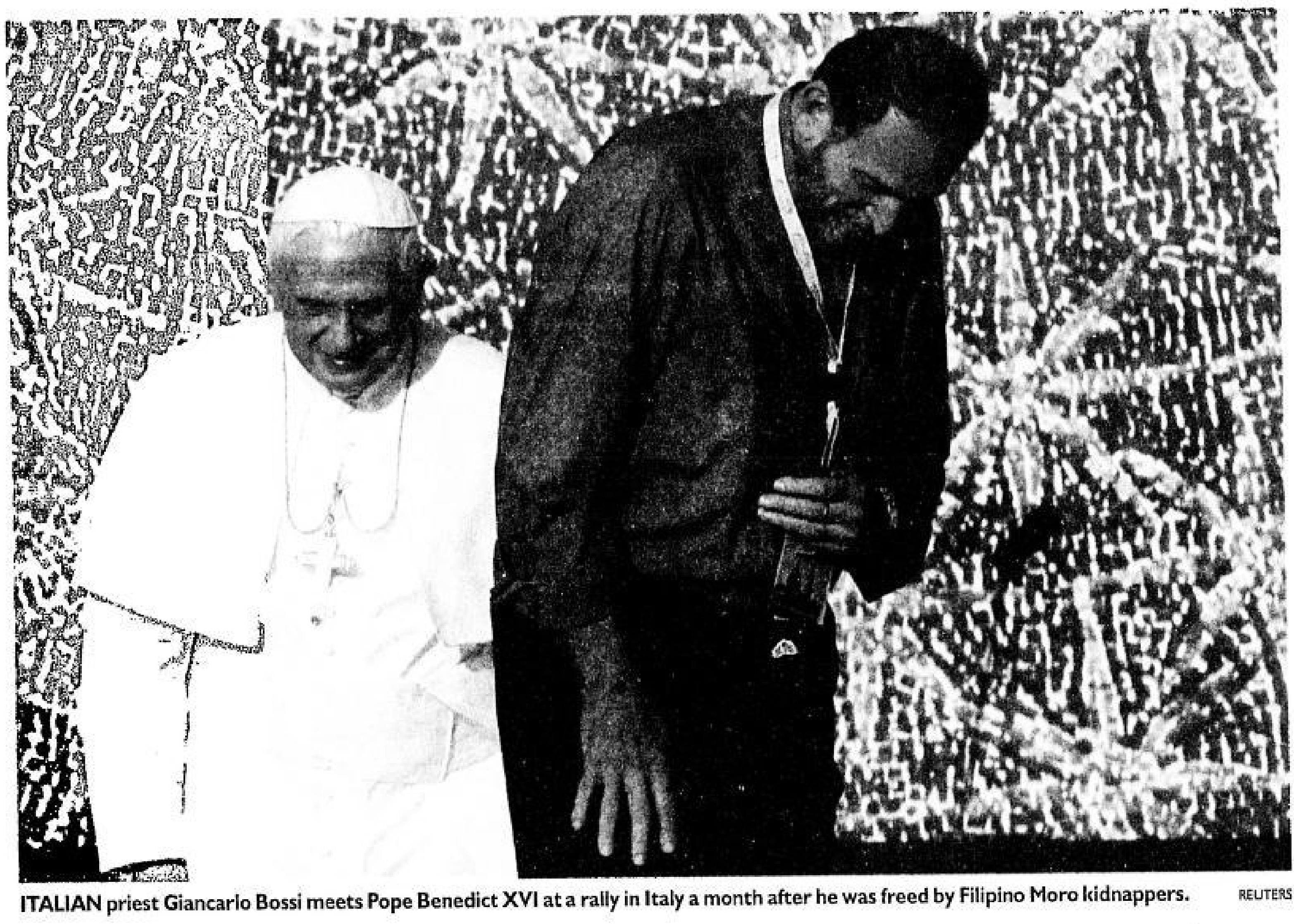
Australia and the United States are the only two industrialized countries not to have ratified Kyoto, arguing that binding emission targets could harm economic growth and leave them at a competitive disadvantage to China and other developing countries not held to the pact's targets.

A document on climate change be-

NO CLIMATE/ A20

POLICE guard the venue of the Asia-Pacific summit in Sydney. AFP

Erap to reject pardon



ITALIAN priest Giancarlo Bossi meets Pope Benedict XVI at a rally in Italy a month after he was freed by Filipino Moro kidnappers. REUTERS

'I'll fight all the way to Supreme Court'

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

A DEFIANT FORMER PRESIDENT JOSEPH Estrada will spurn any pardon from President Macapagal-Arroyo as suggested by a substantial number of Filipinos should the Sandiganbayan find him guilty of plunder.

"Getting pardoned is an admission of guilt. I will exhaust all legal means to fight for justice, even if it means going to the Supreme Court," Estrada yesterday said in a phone interview with the INQUIRER.

"From the very start, they (emissaries of Ms Arroyo) have offered that I leave for the country of my choice, take anything I want and no charges will be filed against me. If i were guilty, *mas mabilis pa sa alas kwatro na tinanggap ko yun* (I would have accepted it right there and then)."

"But flight is a sign of guilt and I am not Joc-Joc Bolante,"

ERAP/ A12

AFP exaggerating threat of Estrada supporters

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

THE MILITARY IS DISPLAYING nervousness over the imminent promulgation sometime this month of the Sandiganbayan decision on the plunder case of deposed President Joseph Estrada. It is also trying to rattle the nation by inflating the specter of unrest over a guilty verdict.

From most indications, the nation is not on edge.

But the Armed Forces of the Philippines staged a show of force on Friday in ceremonies at Camp Aguinaldo and Fort Bonifacio to demonstrate the military is ready to cope with any political disturbances that they fear Estrada supporters may mount in reaction to the decision, either conviction or acquittal.

The AFP and the Philippine National Police have been put on alert ahead of the Sandiganbayan decision.

At Camp Aguinaldo, Maj. Gen. Ben Dolorfino, the new Marine commandant, made an ostentatious inspection of close to 1,000 troops of the National Capital Region Command, including helicopters, armored personnel carriers and troop carrier trucks.

At Fort Bonifacio, headquar-

AFP INFLATING/ A12

Pope urges youth to save planet Earth

LORETO, ITALY—POPE BENEDICT XVI urged hundreds of thousands of young Catholics on Sunday to take better care of the planet and reverse environmental degradation, saying the world's water supply in particular needs to be preserved and shared to avoid conflicts.

Benedict offered a very eco-friendly message during an open-air Mass on the second day of a weekend religious youth rally in the pilgrimage town of Loreto that was organized by the Italian bishops' conference.

The Italian Church has designated Sept. 1 as "Save Creation Day," and as a result the Loreto meeting carried a strong environmental message, with each of the participants given biodegradable plates, recycling bags for their trash and a hand-

POPE/ A21

'She suffered from silence of God'

LORETO, ITALY—POPE BENEDICT XVI on Saturday said that even the late Mother Teresa of Calcutta "suffered from the silence of God" despite her immense charity and faith.

The Pope, addressing a youth rally in central Italy, referred to a new book that reveals that the Roman Catholic nun was deeply tormented about her faith and suffered periods of doubt about God.

It is significant that the Pope mentioned Mother Teresa's torment about God's silence as not being unusual because

MOTHER TERESA/ A21

4 tickets in 4 states win $330-M jackpot

NOTTINGHAM, MARYLAND—FOUR WINNING tickets were sold for the estimated $330-million Mega Millions jackpot—one each in Maryland, New Jersey, Texas and Virginia.

"It wasn't me!" one disappointed customer shouted Saturday morning at Walther Liquors, the Nottingham store where Maryland Lottery officials said one of the tickets was sold.

No one had come forward on Saturday to claim a share of the top prize. In Virginia, at least, that cannot happen until Tuesday because the Virginia Lottery offices are closed for the long holiday weekend.

4 TICKETS/ A19

'I hope Sison is finally punished'

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—THE WIDOW of slain rebel leader Arturo Tabara said she was "overjoyed" by the arrest of Jose Ma. Sison, founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines, in the Netherlands.

Veronica Tabara said the arrest of Sison on Tuesday and his trial in The Hague were the first steps in her "long and difficult quest" for justice for her husband and the "hundreds of others" whom Sison allegedly ordered killed over the years.

"I hope Sison who has seemed untouchable for so long will finally be punished for the death of my husband and so many others," she said on the phone from somewhere in Metro Manila on Saturday night.

But Tabara acknowledged Sison's right to due process.

She said she and Gloria "Joy" Kintanar, widow of Romulo Kintanar, filed the charges against Sison in The Hague last year for ordering the murders of their husbands.

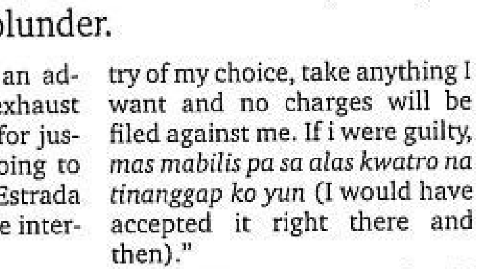
The filing of the charges in the Netherlands was facilitated by the Department of Justice because Tabara said she did not have the resources to do it on her own.

Sison, who has been in exile in the Netherlands since 1987, was arrested at his home in Utrecht for allegedly ordering the assassinations of Romulo Kintanar and Tabara.

Tabara, chair of the breakaway Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade, was killed by New People's Army (NPA) hit men in Quezon City on Sept. 26, 2004, along with Stephen Ong, the boyfriend of Tabara's daughter.

Kintanar, a former member of the CPP Central Committee and chief of its armed wing, the NPA, until his arrest in 1991, was shot dead on

I HOPE/ A13



RAFFY LERMA

ARMY Scout Rangers torch the communist flag after seizing a rebel camp in Quezon.

EZ2
25 24

SUERTRES
Mid-Day 3 2 1
Evening 9 0 9
(All in exact order)

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon will continue to experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Mostly Cloudy	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Mostly Cloudy	**Roxas**	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Mostly Cloudy	**Cebu**	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Mostly Cloudy	**Tacloban**	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Mostly Cloudy	**Gen. Santos**	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Mostly Cloudy	**Zamboanga**	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Mostly Cloudy	**Cagayan de Oro**	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Mostly Cloudy	**Davao**	Partly Cloudy

COMPILED BY RHEA BLANCAS, PDI RESEARCH/09/02/07 SOURCE PAGASA

10 guards relieved over Lacson visit

By Christine O. Avendaño

TEN GUARDS AT A MILITARY DETENTION FACILity in Camp Capinpin, Tanay, were reprimanded and relieved of their duties after they let Sen. Panfilo Lacson enter the premises and hold discussions with Marines and Scout Ranger officers being held for alleged complicity in the February 2006 coup attempt.

Armed Forces Vice Chief of Staff Lt Gen. Antonio Romero said Lacson did not have proper clearance to visit the rebel officers. The guards were found negligent.

Reacting to the news, Lacson said the relief of the guards was "unfair," and that there was "nothing sneaky" about his visit to the facility.

He said he visited there with his staff members because he knew some of the Marines and Scout Ranger detainees. They were once attached to the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force, which he had headed.

The guards let him pass through the gates and didn't tell him that he was not permitted to enter the premises, he told the INQUIRER.

He said he was not aware of any rule that only immediate family members and lawyers could visit the detainees without clearance.

Lacson said he had lunch with Marine Col. Ariel Querubin and other junior officers. He stayed there for less than two hours and left after Querubin got a call from the office of AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., telling him to "cut short" the visit.

At any rate, Romero reiterated orders for the "strict implementation of regulations for visitors" at the detention facility.

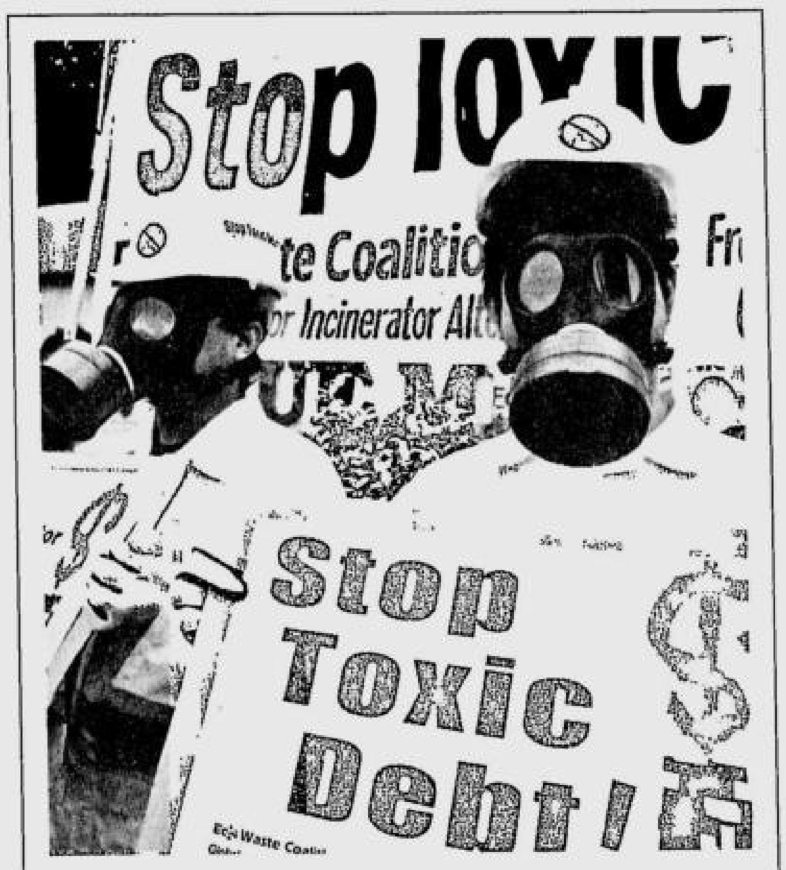
"*Yung* guards *lang kasi...bakit sila nalusutan?..Bakit nakapasok na hindi nakuha yung* approval (It was only the guards who were relieved ... why were they given the slip? ... why was the senator able to enter without first getting approval)?" Romero told reporters.

The military officer-in-charge that day said he had gone to inform higher authorities about the presence of Lacson but apparently the senator slipped through the guards before he returned.

Under the rules, only family members and lawyers of the detained military officers are allowed to visit. All other visitors will have to secure special permission from military authorities, according to Romero.

"Probably the guards were overwhelmed because he (Lacson) is a senator and former general," Romero added.

Asked whether Lacson would have been allowed entry if he requested clearance, Romero replied in the affirmative. Lacson was a senator after all and was probably visiting to check living conditions there "in aid of legislation," he said.



'WASTED MONEY'
Members of the EcoWaste Coalition and the Freedom from Debt Coalition rally in front of the East Avenue Medical Center in Quezon City to criticize how the country's money is thrown away to pay for medical waste burners in 26 hospitals under the Department of Health.
RUDY ESPERAS

Upscale golf club venue of Comelec conference

By Nikko Dizon

AN UPSCALE GOLF CLUB where the controversial broadband contract was supposedly discussed will be the venue of a three-day election assessment conference of the Commission on Elections this month.

Election stakeholders—from election reform advocates to Comelec officials—will gather at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club in Mandaluyong City on Sept. 10-12 to discuss the country's electoral system and the ills hounding it.

Asked on Friday why the golf club was chosen as venue, Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. replied that it was spacious enough to accommodate the participants.

It also has enough parking space, he added.

Abalos, a golfing aficionado, is the club's former president.

He has admitted he knew the officials of the ZTE Corp., the Chinese company with which the government entered a national broadband network deal, and had played golf with them.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves had said Abalos was present when the project came up during a discussion at the golf club.

But Abalos on Saturday said Teves had apologized for making the claim.

Sought for comment, election reform advocate Ramon Casiple chuckled when told that the assessment conference would be held in Wack Wack.

"*Maraming history ang* Wack Wack *sa kanya*. (Wack Wack has a lot of memories for him) He started there as a caddy," Casiple told the INQUIRER by phone. Casiple is a convenor of Bantay Eleksyon 2007 and executive director of the Institute for Political and Electoral Reform (IPER).

In its website, the Comelec said it was "hoped" that the assessment conference "will be seen by all stakeholders as an opportunity to present their observations and recommendations to the Commission on Elections under non-adversarial circumstances in the spirit of true cooperation."

Casiple said his group would seek the revamp of the Comelec "from top to bottom," starting with the appointment of the four new commissioners in February next year, cleaning up of elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, poll modernization, voters' education, and fixing "loopholes" in the electoral system.

"It all boils down to bringing back the Comelec's credibility," he said.

Malacañang comes to defense of Abalos

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY defended embattled Commission on Elections chair Benjamin Abalos, saying his alleged involvement in the controversial $329-million broadband deal with China's ZTE Corp. was not an impeachable offense.

Presidential Legal Adviser Sergio Apostol said Finance Secretary Margarito Teves had already clarified the role played by Abalos in the deal which would involve the setting up of a national broadband network (NBN) across the archipelago.

"That's good. I think the allegations should stop already pending the related case filed in court. Let the court decide and weigh the evidence," said Apostol.

He was referring to Abalos' claim that Teves, in a recent phone call, had supposedly apologized for saying that the Comelec chief was present when the project came up during a discussion at the Wack-Wack Golf Club in Mandaluyong City.

Abalos had claimed he met Teves and Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza "by chance."

But Abalos said over the weekend that he's willing to face an impeachment proceeding because "I did not do anything wrong."

He vehemently denied playing any role in the negotiations between China and the Philippines on the broadband network. *Michael Lim Ubac*

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9 senators vs 'Garci' probe–Migz

BAGUIO CITY — PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's allies in the Senate are playing the civil rights card to protect her from the revival of the "Hello, Garci" controversy.

Sen. Juan Miguel "Migz" Zubiri said he and eight other senators would try to stop the Senate from listening to the allegedly wiretapped conversations of the President and an election official during the 2004 presidential race, before a Senate committee officially opens a probe on Thursday.

He said they would argue that it would violate the civil liberties of Ms Arroyo.

"Otherwise, we will pursue a restraining order by going to the Supreme Court," said Zubiri, who opened the National Leadership Training for Student Governments at Teachers' Camp here on Sunday.

Zubiri, however, did not identify the senators who would join him in raising the question on the propriety of using the wiretapped conversations in the investigation.

His statements came after the senators agreed to reopen the investigations into the wiretapping scandal in an Aug. 29 caucus. The meeting, however, left unsettled the debate as to whether they are permitted to listen to the recordings.

Zubiri said it was "ironic" that senators, like Sen. Panfilo Lacson and Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan, have been insistent about "violating the civil rights of Ms Arroyo," when they fought to include civil rights safeguards in the antiterror law (Human Security Act of 2007). *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

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NGOs seek House probe of Aussie exploration project

By TJ Burgonio

A BROAD ALliance of NGOs is seeking a House inquiry into an Australian firm's exploration project in an upland town in Nueva Vizcaya that has sparked violence between the firm's workers and the town's indigenous people.

Defénd Patrimony said it found out that the Oxiana Philippines Inc. project lacked "informed consent" from the majority of communities.

The group was on a fact-finding mission to Kasibu town in the aftermath of Wednesday's dispersal of tribal folks by paramilitary forces employed by Oxiana.

Defend Patrimony said it would ask Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Teodoro Casiño and Nueva Vizcaya Rep. Carlos Padilla to open an inquiry into the lack of free and prior informed consent from the communities about the project.

"Overwhelmingly, there is a glaring lack of consent from majority of the communities to be affected by mining," said the group's spokesperson Clemente Bautista.

This came about, he said, because of the loopholes in the mining law, where foreign companies or their subsidiaries could secure exploration permits without consent from local government units or majority of the people.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to get a comment from Environment Secretary Joselito Atienza, who was scheduled to meet with Oxiana executives on Friday.

Scores of people were hurt on Wednesday after militiamen in plainclothes dragged away tribal folks who had barricaded a mountain road in Barangay Pacquet to stop Oxiana workers from hauling a bulldozer into the exploration site.

Members of the Bugkalot, Kalanguya, Ibaloi and Ifugao tribes had been manning the barricade since July 12 to stop the transport of heavy equipment to the site.

On President Macapagal-Arroyo's instructions and Bishop Ramon Villena's request, Atienza on Thursday ordered Oxiana to stop transporting equipment to the site to avoid fresh violence.

Despite Atienza's order, the Defend Patrimony urged the people to remain vigilant about any "diversionary tactics" by the government.

"It is unlikely that the Arroyo administration, which is so bent on selling off the rest of the country to foreign mining investors, will fully support the pullout of Oxiana from Kasibu in the long run," said Bautista of Defend Patrimony.

The exploration permit of Oxiana in Barangays Pa-o, Kakidugen, Paquet, Dine and Katarawan was recently extended by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau up to June 2009 despite opposition from the communities, it said.

It warned that people stood to lose more from the explorations by Oxiana and other mining firms in the province.

The large-scale projects could decimate Nueva Vizcaya's thriving citrus industry, adversely pollute three major rivers supplying water into Cagayan Valley, and displace thousands of indigenous peoples from their ancestral domains, it said.

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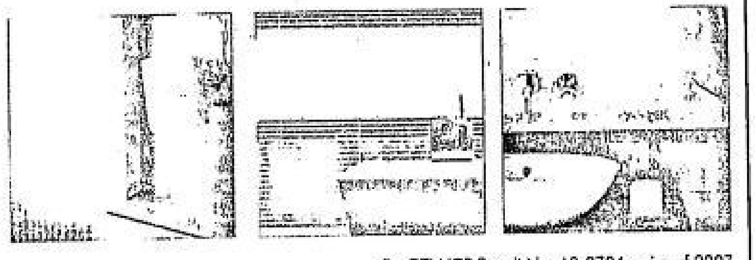

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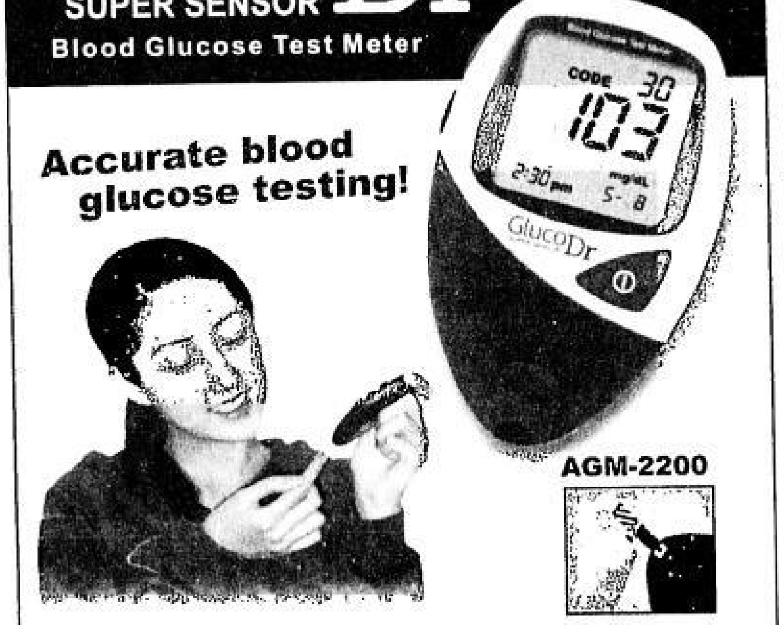

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Roxas questions 'undue haste' in China loan deal

SEN. MANUEL "MAR" ROXAS II is questioning the Arroyo administration's undue haste in forging a $1.8-billion loan deal with China for several big-ticket projects, including the controversial $329-million broadband deal with ZTE Corp. of China.

"Contrary to the position of the Department of Finance, it is highly unusual for the government to enter into a blanket loan with China Export-Import Bank without defining what this loan is for," said Roxas in a statement.

"In our history, the government has been littered with rushed and secret contracts that have only resulted in disputes and abuse. Now we are signing a P90 billion loan agreement for a project whose contract we have yet to see and which obviously was the result of political lobbying rather than public interest," he said.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves signed a $400-million credit line with executives of China Export-Import Bank which pushed the country's Chinese credit line to $1.8 billion.

The new credit facility is likely to be used to bankroll ZTE's contract to establish a broadband network for the government. The project was initially pushed as a build, operate and transfer project at no cost to the government.

Roxas had questioned not only the government's lack of transparency in drafting the ZTE contract but also its "good judgment" in pursuing a project which has very little impact on the more pressing demands of the public for more jobs and higher wages.

No public bidding was conducted for the broadband project and the original contract was reportedly lost in China.

"It is not a priority project in the minds of the people. The executive branch is imposing on the people another dollar-denominated loan without explaining to them what this loan is for," Roxas said.

"Worse, we may start paying this loan without even seeing the ZTE contract itself. I urge the DOF to dump the ZTE contract and seriously consider not taking the loan." *Gil Cabacungan Jr.*

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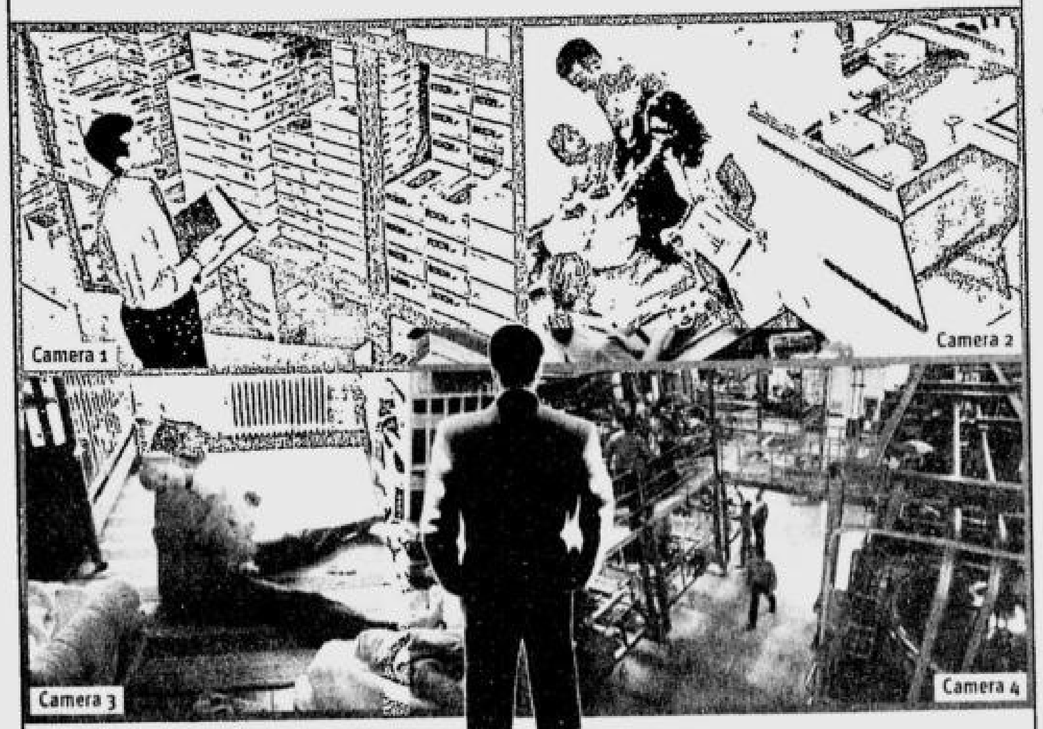

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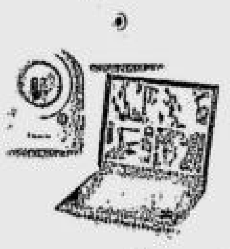
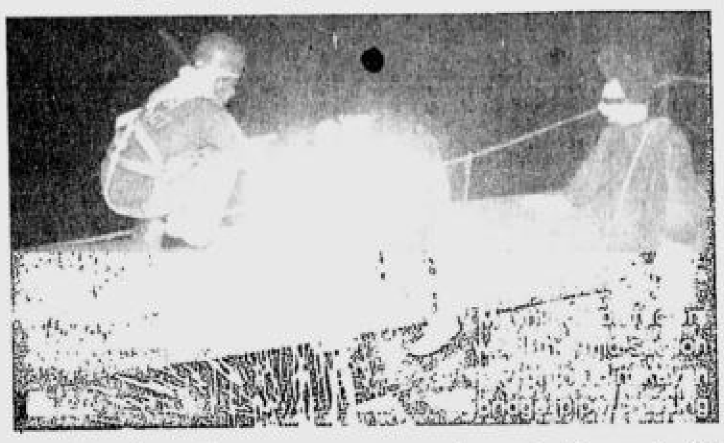


Maynilad bridges supply gap in Cavite



MAYNILAD Water has completed the interconnection of the Binakayan 600-mm bridge pipe crossing, which linked Maynilad's supply line from Bacoor, Cavite to the Kawit side of Binakayan River.

With the project's completion, 18 barangays in Kawit and one barangay in Imus have been provided with increased water supply from 3.2 million liters per day (mld.) to 4.87 mld., and water pressure from 0-1 psi. to 6-7 psi.

"Finally, we can bring more water to areas of Cavite under our coverage, and eventually reach still unserved areas in the region. Expect to have further developments in Cavite's water supply, as more engineering initiatives like this bridge pipe crossing are done, and as the new management of Maynilad steps up its efforts to improve water service in the South," Maynilad president Rogelio Singson said.

Kawit, Imus and nearby areas in Cavite used to have only one primary source of water, the Noveleta reservoir, which collects groundwater from deepwells like the Malamok and Balsahan deepwells.

"Through the bridge pipe, we are able to supplement with surface water the groundwater supply of Kawit and neighboring municipalities," Maynilad AVP for Construction Sisenando Lampa explained.

Maynilad president Rogelio Singson (third from left) discusses the bridge pipe design with other company official.

Resting on a pier on both ends and supported by four columns of reinforced concrete, the 600-mm Binakayan service pipe weighs 15 tons, spans 77 meters long across Binakayan River, and runs parallel to Binakayan Bridge along Tirona Highway in Cavite.

This bridge pipe will also serve as the main supply vein for Maynilad's further expansion efforts in Cavite for the next few years, as the water firm earmarked P1.5 billion from its nine-year Capital Investment Plan (CIP) costing P33 billion to lay 188 km. of new pipes in the region.

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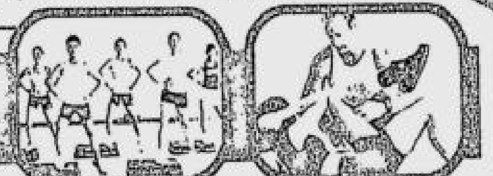

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SC upholds conviction of 2 eng'rs in ghost projects

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE SUPREME Court has upheld the Sandiganbayan's conviction of two civil engineers in the public works department for their role in a multimillion-peso highway scam involving ghost projects in Cebu.

It dismissed the petition of Simon Fernan Jr. and Expedito Torrevilas, who questioned their conviction in six and nine cases, respectively, for estafa through falsification of public documents and for signing fake delivery documents that led to the disbursement of public funds for the nonexistent road projects.

The 1977 scam, involving an "ingenious scheme" at the Cebu First Highway Engineering District, gave rise to 119 criminal cases involving 36 former officials and employees of the then Ministry of Pubic Highways and suppliers of construction materials.

"This infamous P86-million highway scam has few parallels in the annals of crime in the country," the high court said in its Aug. 24 decision.

The scam involved the issuance of fake Letters of Advice of Allotments, vouchers and other documents for the release of public funds for non-existent road works. The trail was covered up with the connivance of other officials.

The Supreme Court found no merit in the two engineers' "feeble" contention that they were unaware of the plan of their co-accused, led by Chief Accountant Rolando Mangubat of the then Ministry of Public Highways in Central Visayas, to defraud the government.

Fernan and Torrevilas signed the tally sheets of the delivery of materials containing false facts, it said. "These tally sheets were attached as supporting documents to fake LAAs and subsequently became the bases for the disbursement of public funds to the damage of and prejudice of the government. Indubitably, there exists not even an iota of doubt as to petitioners' guilt," it said.

It also cited the testimonies of barangay officials who said there were no major repair works on the highways where the materials for the road works in the tally sheet were supposedly delivered. Hence, the delivery of materials and supplies for the asphalting and repair of roads did not take place.

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SC affirms circular on LPG dealers' sanctions

THE SUPREME Court has denied with finality the motion for reconsideration filed by the LPG Refillers Association of the Philippines Inc., which sought to nullify a Department of Energy circular prescribing sanctions on unscrupulous dealers of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG).

The group said the acts punished by the circular were beyond the scope of Batas Pambansa Bilang 33, which penalizes the illegal trading, hoarding, overpricing, adulteration, underdelivery and underfilling of petroleum products. It also argued that the penalties were confiscatory and violated the Bill of Rights.

The circular imposes fines and other penalties for LPG marketers, refillers or dealers who:

- Do not have a price display board or weighing scale.
- Sell LPGs with incorrect weight markings, without appropriate LPG seals, trade name or serial numbers.
- Hoard, tamper with or refill LPG cylinders without authorization.
- Sell underfilled LPG cylinders and do not pay fines or cooperate with authorized inspectors.

Penalties range from a fine of P500 to P10,000 for each cylinder, and a recommendation to the local government unit that the business be closed.

The high court found no merit in the group's argument that new acts punished under the circular were not specified in BP 33.

"Demonstrably, the specific acts and omissions cited in the circular are within the contemplation of BP Blg. 33, as amended. The DOE, in issuing the circular, merely filled up the details and the manner through which the BP Blg. 33, as amended may be carried out. Nothing extraneous was provided in the circular that could result in its invalidity," it said in an Aug. 28 resolution. *Leila B. Salaverria*

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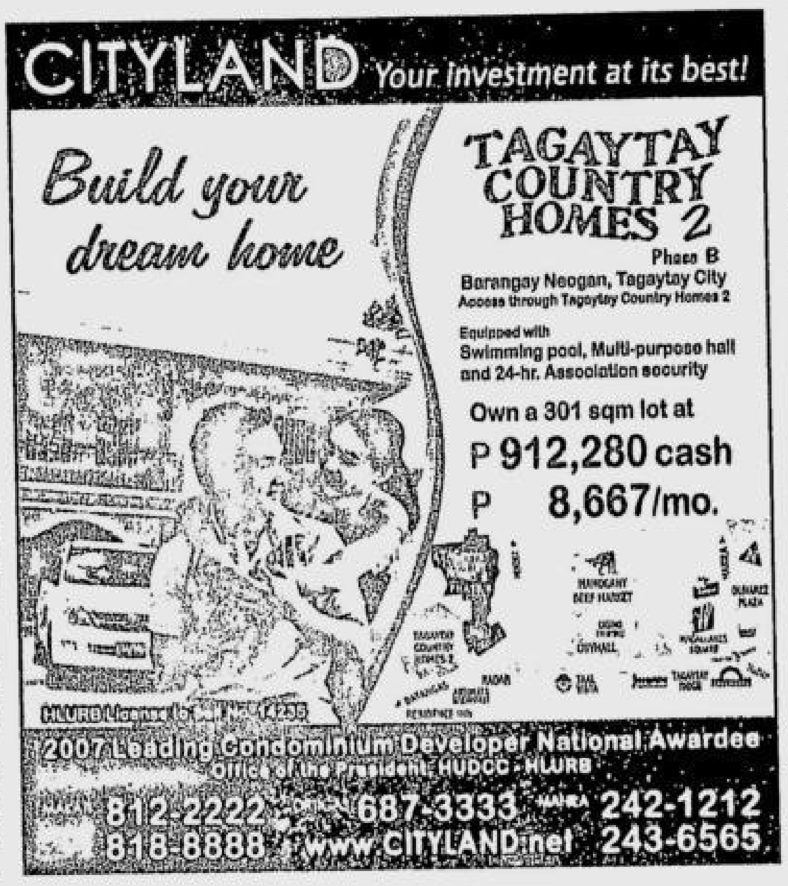

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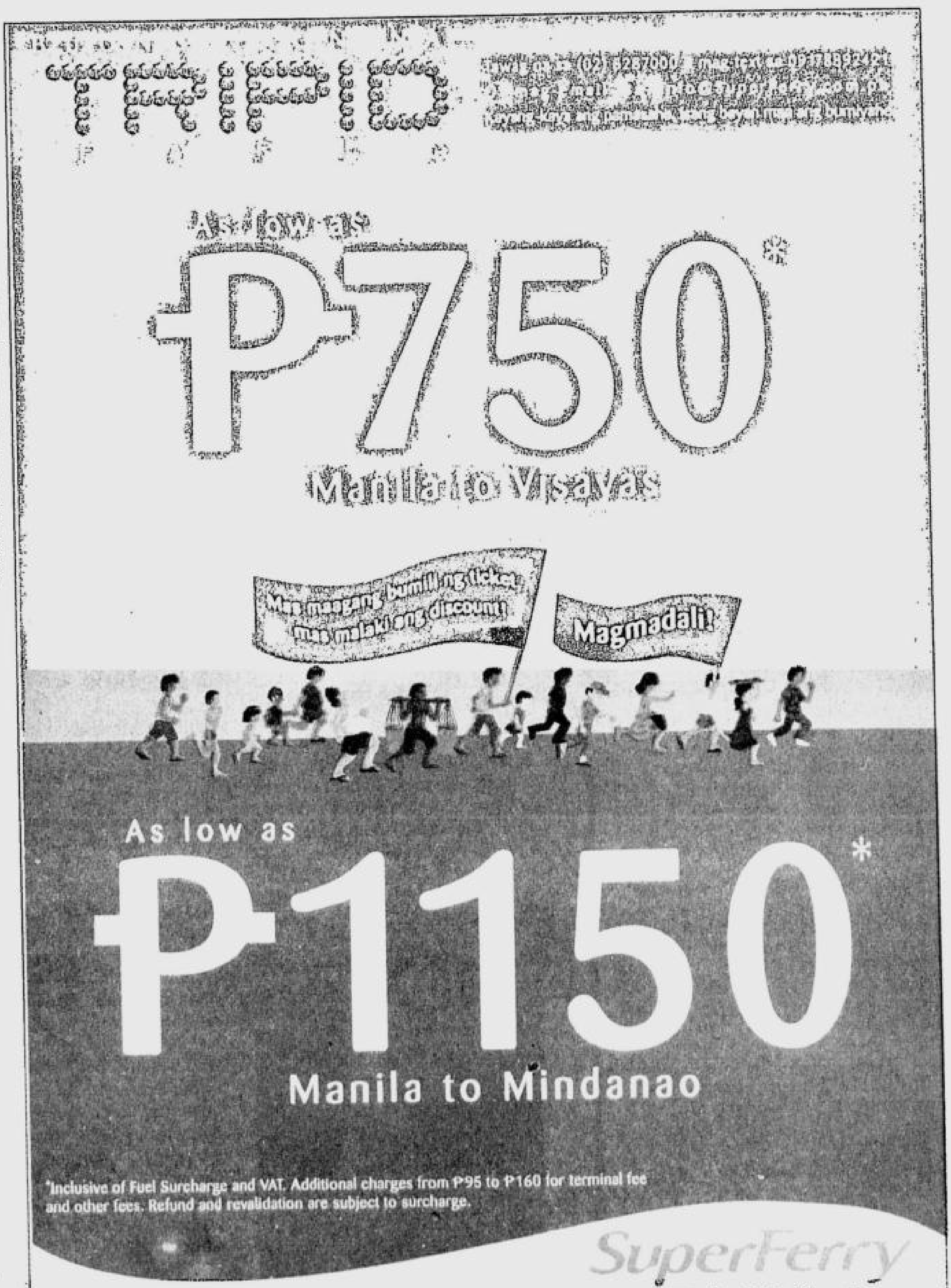

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Port Charges	$ 342	

10N Western Mediterranean Cruise
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Sail Date: 12 October 2007

Prices Starting From:	CRUISE ONLY	FLY / CRUISE via KLM
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Ocean View Stateroom	$ 1,390	$ 2,290
Verandah Stateroom	$ 1,640	$ 2,540
3rd & 4th Guest	$ 240	$ 1,410
Port Charges	$ 342.50	

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4N Pacific Northwest
(Seattle RT)
Celebrity's "Mercury"
Sail Date: 01 October 2007

Prices Starting From:	CRUISE ONLY	FLY / CRUISE via CX
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7N Eastern Carribbean Cruise
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Prices Starting From:	CRUISE ONLY	FLY / CRUISE via CX
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Ocean View Stateroom	$ 650	$ 1,600
3rd & 4th Guest	$ 240	$ 1,190
Port Charges	$ 204	

ASIA

4N Isles of Southeast Asia Cruise
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Sail Date: 17 December 2007

Prices Starting From:	CRUISE ONLY	FLY / CRUISE via PAL
Interior Stateroom	$ 459	$ 779
Ocean View Stateroom	$ 599	$ 919
Port Charges	$ 114.50	

5N Spice of Southeast Asia Cruise
(Singapore RT)
Royal Caribbean's "Rhapsody of the Seas"
Sail Date: 21 December 2007

Prices Starting From:	CRUISE ONLY	FLY / CRUISE via PAL
Interior Stateroom	$ 619	$ 939
Ocean View Stateroom	$ 779	$ 1,099
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‘Panatag sa Smokey Mountain, ‘Salamat sa Desisyon ng Korte Suprema 13-0’

The old Smokey Mountain

By Ruby Ann Kagaoan – Calo

Older residents of Smokey Mountain still remember when their community used to be called Barrio Mandaragat (Fishermen's Community). Its residents could catch fish using small boats called *banca* along the nearby river of Navotas. Its other name was Quonset, because it still had the Quonset huts left by the Americans after World-War II.

In the early 80's, Metro Manila garbage started being dumped onto the shorelines of Manila Bay. Then the river of Navotas also became polluted. Eventually, it began to take motor boats plying farther away from this Tondo community for fish to be caught, and the residents of Barrio Mandaragat had to resort to scavenging to survive.

Angelito Ferreras, 43, father of 8 children, sold his boat in the 90's because there was nothing anymore to fish where he used to catch fish and shrimps. His father and his grandfather had lived in this Tondo area since the liberation from the Japanese occupation, and he grew up seeing the river as a source of food and livelihood.

In 1983, when the area was already turned into a dumpsite, the government demolished the squatter homes and relocated its residents to Bulihan, Silang, Cavite. However, all that was there waiting in Bulihan for the former dumpsite residents was a comfort room cubicle. There was no livelihood and so many of them eventually returned to Smokey Mountain, where they could generate income from scavenging.

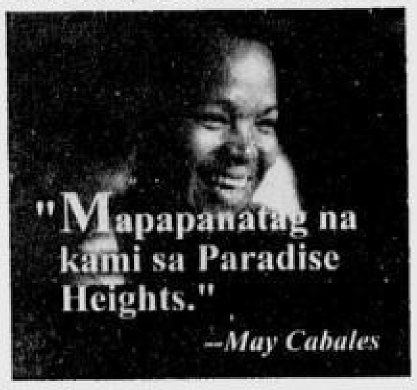
In the years leading to 1986, the world's media put its focus on Smokey Mountain. First-World nations found unbelievable a community of people living amidst, and making a living out of, the mountain range-like methane-emitting mounds of garbage. That community became to the world a symbol of Philippine poverty.

'Feeling Rich'

Life got better for the Smokey Mountain shanty-dwellers when they were granted humane concrete housing under the **Smokey Mountain Reclamation and Development Project (SMRDP)**, a joint project of the **National Housing Authority (NHA)** and **R-II Builders, Inc.**.

The men of Smokey Mountain used to lie on the G.I. sheets of their shanty roofs to keep typhoon winds from blowing off their makeshift dwelling. Worms as large as their fingers crawled out amidst the rising waters brought by rains. Now the Smokey Mountain families enjoy toilets, showers, and bedroom lofts and have concrete buildings to live in. They are no longer bothered by strong rains or floods or worms.

Since transferring to the housing units, the Smokey Mountain residents have reclassified their status. *"Feeling mayaman na kami dito. Imagine mo may comfort room at shower na kami.* (We feel rich here. Now we have comfort rooms and showers)," says Nenita Santiago, 46, mother of 5. And so they have renamed their community *"Paradise Heights Condominiums."*



"Mapapanatag na kami sa Paradise Heights."

–May Cabales

"Dadami na ang trabahong mapapasukan"

–Alicia Bongalos

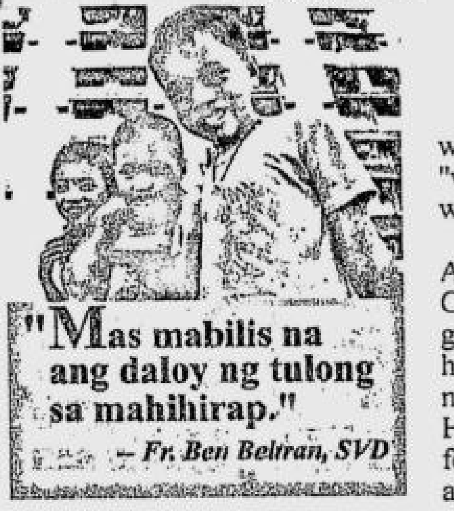
Employment for Smokey Mountain Residents

Today, most male residents of Smokey Mountain are still making their livelihood from scavenging in other dumpsites, while the other men are drivers of sidecars and jeepneys. Most female residents do not have work except to take care of their children, while the other women do part-time vending.

Some Smokey Mountain residents, however, have been hired by locators of the adjacent Manila Harbour Center, which was set up on the reclaimed land that was part of the **SMRDP.**

William Morallos, 53, father of 5, and grandfather of 3, found employment as a utility man with the sister company of R-II Builders. Before his employment, he was skinny, but now he is a picture of health and contentment. He used to resort to loan sharks to capitalize his fish vending enterprise, but now he is assured of regular salary.

Nenita affirms that most men in their community really hope to land jobs with locators at the site, which, she adds, is not only near them but also provides stable employment. She deplores, however, the fact that when detractors of the project, including former Solicitor General Francisco Chavez, started filing cases against the project, the business locators stopped coming.



"Mas mabilis na ang daloy ng tulong sa mahihirap."

– Fr. Ben Beltran, SVD

Supreme Court and Faith in the Future

The August 15 Supreme Court decision gave them increased confidence in the future. Penned by Justice Presbitero J. Velasco Jr., the Supreme Court decision upheld the validity of the Smokey Mountain project, which was given full support by two Philippine presidents, former President Cory Aquino and former President Fidel Ramos.

Nenita expresses, *"Malaki talaga ang pasasalamat namin sa Supreme Court. Panatag na kami sa katayuan namin ngayon* (We express our profound thanks to the Supreme Court. Now we feel secure about our state).

"Sana hayaan na lang kaming mamuhay nang tahimik at yung mga naninira, isaalang-alang din kaming mga wala (We wish that we would be allowed to live in peace and that those who want to bring the project down would be considerate towards us who have none)," she adds.

"Natatakot kami, dahil kapag na-void ni Chavez ang Smokey Mountain development, balik kami sa bundok (We were afraid, because if Chavez managed to void the Smokey Mountain development, we would be back to the mountains)," says Nenita, who is a convener of the Smokey Mountain Alliance of Concerned Beneficiaries.

What the Smokey Mountain residents need now is not more opposition but better livelihood opportunities.

"Umaraw, bumagyo, bumaha, wala kaming problema dito. Bayaran na lang ang problema namin (Come sunshine, or storm, or flood, we have no problem here. Our only worry is how to pay for our units.)," quips Amelia Crisostomo, 54, widow, mother of 6, grandmother of 12, and site resident since 1964.

Mountains of Dreams and Hopes

Leonora Casanova, 41, mother of 7, and six-months pregnant with her 8th child, counts on the sidecar driving of her husband and her two eldest sons for their family's sustenance. *"Pangarap ko makapagtrabaho ang mga anak ko* (I wish that my children could find work)," Leonora sighs. For them, "work" means permanent, salaried work.

At 39 and still girlish-looking, May Cabale is already going to be a grandmother this year. Her husband, an air-con repairman, is now doing casual work as a driver. Her eldest is now 22 and is following his father's footsteps as an air-con repairman. Her dream is simple. *"Pangarap kong makatapos kami ng pagbayad* (I hope that we can finish our amortization)," says May.

Alicia Bongalos, 50, mother of 6, and grandmother of 3, lived right on the top center of the mound of garbage that "grew" as Smokey Mountain's facade. *"Dati uod, bangaw at langaw sa pagkain ang lagi naming kasama* (Before, we always had worms, and giant flies and flies always hovered over our food)," Alicia recalls.

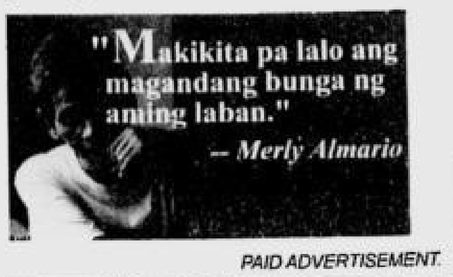
Three of Alicia's children reached second-year college and one is a first-year college scholar of Smokey Mountain's beloved parish priest, Fr. Ben Beltran, SVD, who has been working among the residents of Smokey Mountain since 1978, a decade before Smokey Mountain became a parish.

Unleashed Opportunities

Father Ben, these days, has become a busier man. The Supreme Court decision, to him, has unleashed opportunities for Smokey Mountain. "More doors for help have opened. *Ang daming tulong na dumadaloy* (More help is flowing in)," he states, as he pitches his parish website address *www.prcsmokey-mt.org* which provides an update of the church-initiated assistance projects.

"We are building here the world's first green church - the Church of Hope." Being built out of recycled materials and to be provided with environment-friendly features, the Church of Hope edifice will also house high-tech enterprises that will make a "Silicon Mountain" or a digitized community out of Smokey Mountain.

Father Ben sees the world judging this Filipino community by the fruits that it bears. "Our youths are trooping to the Marikina watershed to plant trees on behalf of donors. Our community is rising as a world symbol for caring for our planet," Father Ben concludes.



"Makikita pa lalo ang magandang bunga ng aming laban."

– Merly Almario

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

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THE PHILIPPINE AIR Force will send its engineering unit to Mindanao this week to undertake infrastructure projects in the conflict-affected communities of Jolo and Basilan, where the military is battling the Abu Sayyaf.

Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Horacio Tolentino said the 355th Aviation Engineering Wing with 60 men would bring tools and heavy equipment to upgrade roads near the combat zone.

"This is part of the humanitarian offensive that the government wants to pursue in Mindanao. Our combat engineers will go to Jolo and Basilan to pave roads there in order to spur economic development," Tolentino said.

He said the engineering unit, including bulldozers, payloaders, and dump and cargo trucks, would be shipped to the area by a tanker of the Philippine Navy. The team is tentatively set to sail for Wednesday.

"We hope to reduce violence there by showing the community that the government is really serious in its goal of uplifting their lives. We want to provide them with the basic necessities, and roads are one of those," said Tolentino.

Tarra Quismundo

War zones 'quiet' in Basilan, Sulu

By Julie S. Alipala
Inquirer Mindanao

ZAMBOANGA CITY—IT'S ALL QUIET ON the battlefront.

Despite the thousands of government troops already there, the battle zones in the Basilan and Sulu have been quiet for a week now.

In Basilan, Mayors Joel Maturan of Unkaya Pukan and Jakilan Karam of Albarka town told the INQUIRER that it had been quiet since the last reported fight on Aug. 26.

Military operations are concentrated in the towns of Unkaya Pukan, Albarka, Sumisip and Tipo-tipo Central.

A total of nine battalions have been deployed to Basilan.

Sulu is also unusually quiet.

Eight battalions

A total of eight battalions or at least 4,000 soldiers are deployed in the province, according to AFP spokesperson Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro.

AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. last week ordered soldiers deployed in Basilan and Sulu to "defeat and destroy the Abu Sayyaf Group and lawless elements as soon as possible."

Aside from the seven battalions of Marines, Army, special operation and militia forces, Esperon announced on Wednesday the deployment of two Engineering Battalions from the Philippine Army and Philippine Air Force, or a total of nine battalions in Basilan alone.

Basilan's Task Force Thunder, under Brig. Gen. Juancho Sabban, is hunting around 80 Abu Sayyaf fighters, including Puruji Indama and Nurrudin Muddalang alias Kumander Nod, who were earlier reported to have been killed in a clash with government soldiers.

Intelligence-driven

In Sulu, Task Force Comet chief Maj. Gen. Reuben Rafael said their operation was more "intelligence-driven."

"Gathering more information on the ground and at the same time intensifying our civil military operations," Rafael said.

Rafael said government troops in Sulu are pursuing about 200 Abu Sayyaf bandits, including Indonesian terrorists Umar Patek and Dulmatin.

Maj. Gen. Nelson Allaga, Western Mindanao Command chief, said the deployment of more troops in the two provinces would enable them to dictate the course of combat operation and "impose our will against the terrorists."

The military is also constructing roads, building and repairing schools, bridges, tapping potable water and other infrastructure projects in Sulu and Basilan.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, September 3, 2007
22nd Week in Ordinary Time
Gregory the Great

1st Reading: 1 Thes 4:13-18
Gospel: Luke 4:16-30

When Jesus came to Nazareth where he had been brought up, he entered the synagogue on the Sabbath as he usually did. He stood up to read and they handed him the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Jesus then unrolled the scroll and found the place where it is written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me. He has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and new sight to the blind; to free the oppressed and announce the Lord's year of mercy."

Jesus then rolled up the scroll, gave it to the attendant and sat down, while the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he said to them, "Today these prophetic words come true even as you listen."

All agreed with him and were lost in wonder, while he kept on speaking of the grace of God. Nevertheless they asked, "Who is this but Joseph's son?" So he said, "Doubtless you will quote me the saying: Doctor, heal yourself! Do here in your town what they say you did in Capernaum."

Jesus added, "No prophet is honored in his own country. Truly, I say to you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens withheld rain for three years and six months and a great famine came over the whole land. Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow of Zarephath, in the country of Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha, the prophet, and no one was healed except Naaman, the Syrian."

On hearing these words, the whole assembly became indignant. They rose up and brought him out of the town, to the edge of the hill on which Nazareth is built, intending to throw him down the cliff. But he passed through their midst and went his way.

Commentary

We are reminded of our belief about death and resurrection. We live in hope and die in hope. We live resurrection life from the moment of our baptisms, practicing it in our lives, and in death we are entrusted to the Lord of Life.

The Church thinks that Jesus will come back soon and they speak of it as if they know what is going to happen, using language that is typical of literature about the end times. We are to console one another not with the end of the world/time but with the life that is ours now in ever greater depth and power. We leave the world's end to God's hands. We are to be concerned with now—today. We are to do the five things that are God's work in the world, and make God's words in Isaiah and in Jesus come true in our lives and worlds. Today this Scripture passage comes true, when we hear it, believe it, obey it, and stake our lives on it. This is life and we are called to make this life available for all. Do we ever preach well enough with our lives that we are rejected even?

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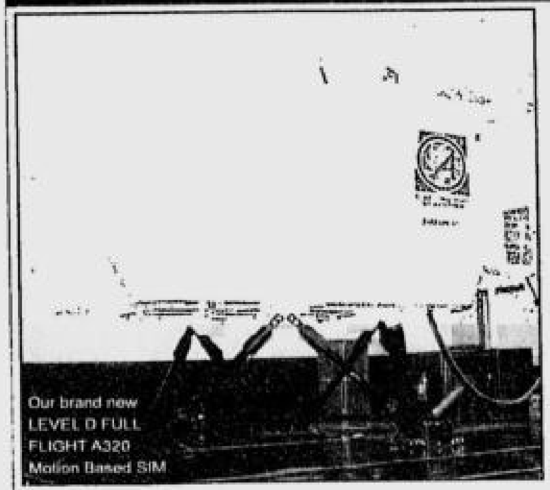
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Bahrain targets absconding foreign workers

MANAMA—BAHRAIN'S labor watchdog invited employers on Saturday to hand over the passports of absconding foreign workers in the Gulf state which hosts many Asian workers.

The embassies of India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and the Philippines as well as three Arab states—Egypt, Jordan and Iraq—would collect the passports of their respective nationals from the employers throughout September, the Labor Market Authority said in a statement.

The statement, received by AFP, did not give an estimate of absconding workers. It said employers would not be fined or otherwise penalized if they handed over the passports.

The labor watchdog was created by the government two years ago to promote the employment of Bahrainis and make them more competitive than foreign workers by imposing more taxes on the recruitment and employment of foreigners.

Unemployment has long been a key concern in Bahrain, the only Gulf state which does not export crude oil and whose economy relies heavily on banking and other services.

Some 250,000 expatriates, mostly from Asia, work in Bahrain, making up roughly a third of the Gulf state's population of around 707,000. *AFP*

Environmental audit of RP treaties urged

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—ADMINISTRATION Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri, styling himself as the country's Al Gore, said he would push for an audit of the country's international commitments affecting global warming, even if he crosses swords with President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Gore, a former US vice president, has been identified with the climate change campaign since he starred in the Oscar Award-winning documentary "An Inconvenient Truth."

Zubiri opened this year's National Leadership Training for Student Governments at Teachers' Camp here by saying the planet is already in turmoil.

He told about 6,000 student government leaders that this year's prolonged dry spell, the three successive storms that struck in a span of a week in August, as well as the tornadoes that hit several villages in the country were sure signs of global warming.

Zubiri said the Arroyo administration has launched various projects aimed to help reverse climate change because of weather patterns "that used to be unheard of in the Philippines."

But he said the government must first consolidate all environment-related treaties it has signed, "because ang *dami-dami nating na*-ratify (we have ratified so many agreements), many of which we don't even understand … we don't even know."

At a news conference, Zubiri said treaties couched in generic legal language almost cost the country a trade agreement that would have permitted the entry of toxic waste.

He was referring to the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA), which was criticized last year by international environmental groups for a provision that apparently grants incentives for the trade of waste materials.

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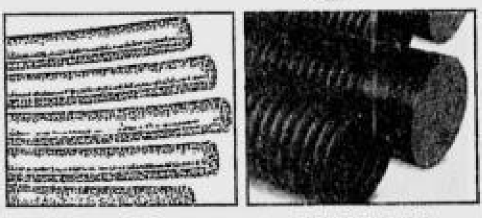

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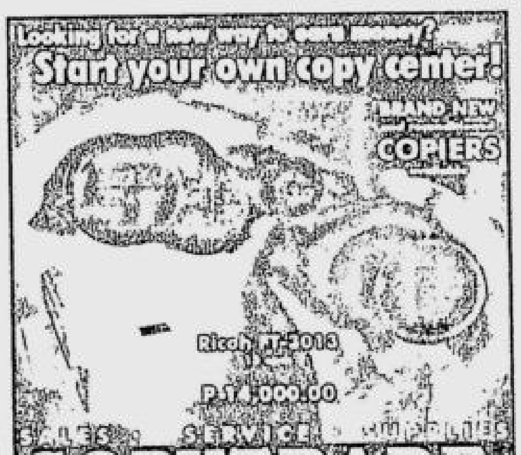

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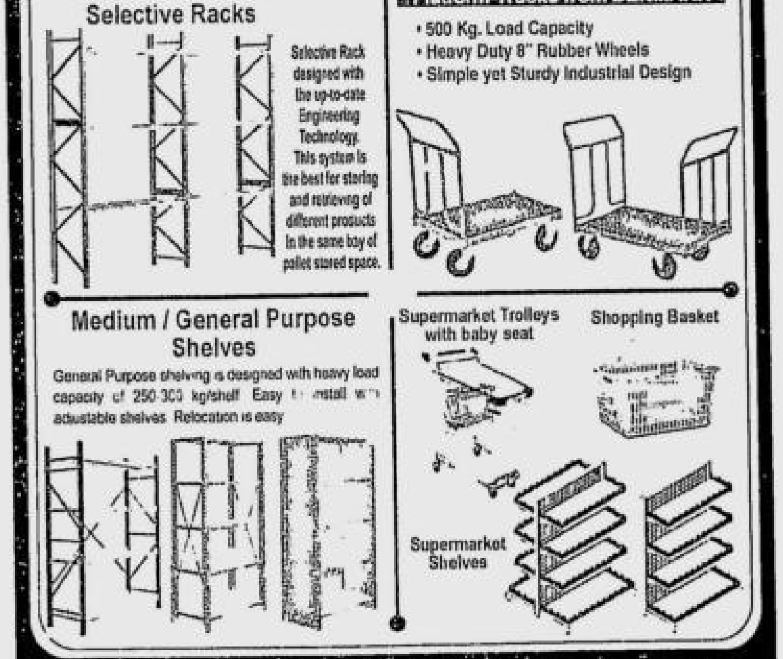

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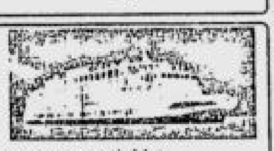

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BI under fire from COA for office repairs

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE BUREAU OF Immigration is under fire for spending more than P4 million on office repairs without public bidding and without an approved annual procurement plan last year.

It also served as a "collecting agent" for private insurance companies remitting over P3.3 million in salary deductions from its employees which is prohibited by law, according to the Commission on Audit.

In the 2006 audit report on the BI, the COA disclosed that between February and August 2006, the bureau spent P3,097,844.18 and P1,067,875.71 on repairs and rehabilitation works of its satellite offices at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminals I and II and at Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan City, respectively.

In its audit of the expense account for the repair works, the COA noted several flaws such as the absence of a public bidding contrary to the provisions of the Government Procurement Reform Act (GPRA).

Due to the lack of bidding, the repair contracts were cornered by only one contractor, Michaelson Construction, the report said.

The repair works were also not covered by an approved Annual Procurement Plan, another requirement under the GPRA owing to the absence of documentary requirements such as approved agency estimates, certificate of acceptance and certificate of warranty.

The report also said that job orders were split to avoid the justice secretary's scrutiny and approval, considering that the amount had exceeded the signing authority warranted to the immigration commissioner.

In its comment, the BI explained that "splitting was not resorted to as repairs in reality were urgent/unprogrammed requests due to changes in security set up being enforced by the Manila International Airport Authority."

The repair works done at the BI detention cell at Camp Bagong Diwa were "emergency" in nature due to the damages brought about by typhoons, the BI added.

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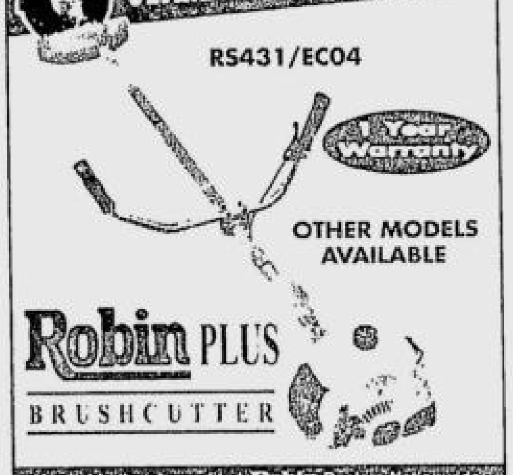

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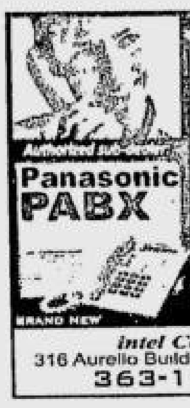

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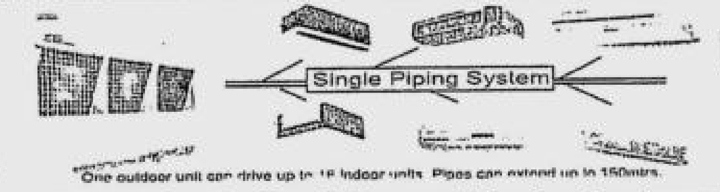

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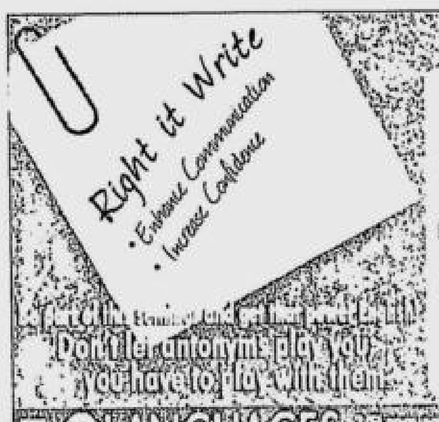

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AFP inflating threat of Erap supporters

From page A1

ters of the Marines and hotbed of military unrest since the aborted coup attempt implicating Marine units on Feb. 24-26, 2006, Dolorfino inspected the troops, their armor, as well as their ambulances.

He also tried to crank up the public mood to the state of nervousness of the security forces. He told reporters: "We are now ready for any contingency that may happen. The objective is to maintain peace, order and stability in the NCR."

Dolorfino said the worst-case scenario could happen, including a repeat of the May 1, 2001, attack on Malacañang by Estrada partisans after he was arrested to stand trial on plunder charges. Estrada is the first Filipino President to be charged with criminal offenses in the courts of justice.

Inflated threat

The arrest enraged Estrada's supporters, who found it too excessive after he was forced out of office following the collapse of his administration when the AFP withdrew its support.

The military deployments in anticipation of disturbances appear to be out of proportion to the threat of public disorder, and did not reflect public concern over the inflated threat.

They succeeded only in revealing the military high command's lack of confidence in the solidarity of the security forces and, by implication, the uncertain loyalty of the entire AFP to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Garci tapes scandal

The deployments coincided with the reopening of the Garci tapes scandal in the Senate.

The Senate on Wednesday voted to revive the investigation of the tapes by referring the case to three committees—the committee on national defense, the blue ribbon committee and the committee on constitutional amendments.

The vote came after Sen. Panfilo Lacson introduced a new testimony by a former military intelligence agent that he and a team of agents of the military intelligence service wiretapped a telephone conversation between Ms Arroyo and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano purporting to show that she allegedly attempted to tamper with the canvassing of the 2004 election returns.

Reopening old wound

The new investigation will reopen the legitimacy issue that has damaged the Arroyo presidency since 2005.

The reference of the case to the Senate committee on national defense is bound to reopen the sensitive issue of security breaches involving a presidency being spied upon by intelligence agents who are alleged to have eavesdropped not only on presidential telephone conversations but also on those of opposition figures during the 2004 elections.

No signs of unrest

There is no sign that Estrada supporters are restive in anticipation of the Sandiganbayan's decision, or that they are as outraged as they were when he was arrested.

There is no visible sign that his followers are being mobilized to take street action to protest a guilty decision.

Such a disruption is not expected, but there are fears that the decision could be used by disgruntled groups inside the security forces as a galvanizing issue to foment military unrest over the legitimacy issue on the Arroyo presidency.

Disgruntled groups

Since the collapse of his administration in 2001, Estrada has lost much of his support among former loyalists in the AFP.

The concern lies in that disgruntled groups in the AFP, especially those facing trial on charges related to recent mutinies, would use the Sandiganbayan's decision to foment further dissatisfaction inside the security forces.

The public appears prepared to take a decision calmly, whatever it is.

SWS survey

A confidential survey conducted by Social Weather Stations in July found that almost half of Filipinos in Metro Manila and neighboring provinces think Ms Arroyo should pardon Estrada if he is found guilty.

Forty-eight percent said "in case the Sandiganbayan declares Erap guilty," Ms Arroyo should pardon him "immediately."

Thirty-eight percent said Estrada should be pardoned "after some time," and 13 percent said no pardon.

According to socioeconomic classes, the survey showed that 47 percent and 58 percent of respondents from classes D and E (the lower classes) wanted Estrada pardoned immediately. This sentiment was shared by 31 percent from classes ABC.

The highest number of respondents who didn't want Estrada pardoned came from classes ABC, with 17 percent.

Erap to reject pardon by GMA

From page A1

Estrada said, referring to Ms Arroyo's former agriculture undersecretary, who left for the United States in the midst of a controversy over a P728-million alleged fertilizer scam.

"My conscience is clear, I will not leave the 11 million Filipinos who voted for me."

Estrada has consistently said since his ouster in 2001 that the Arroyo administration had offered him a chance to leave the Philippines and spare the country of an acrimonious trial, but that he had rejected the idea.

A Sandiganbayan ruling on his plunder case is expected to be handed down soon, possibly within the next two weeks.

'We will not accept pardon'

A confidential Social Weather Stations survey, commissioned by the opposition, shows that 48 percent of Filipinos in Metro Manila and neighboring provinces want Ms Arroyo to immediately pardon Estrada if he is found guilty, while another 38 percent favor pardon "after some time."

Still hoping

Estrada, however, would not categorically say whether he would rather spend more time in prison than get a free pass from Ms Arroyo.

"I will not preempt the Sandiganbayan on this matter. I still believe they will decide (based) on the merits of the case," he said.

The former President's son, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, said that while his father was happy with the people's sympathy with his plight, "we will not accept any pardon because that will only mean he's guilty, and he is not."

The younger Estrada said the survey should be a warning to Ms Arroyo not to tamper with the country's justice system because all eyes were on his father's case.

"We all know she is insensitive but this time, she should be sensitive to this strong public opinion against her," said Senator Estrada.

The elder Estrada took the results of the survey as further validation of his belief that Filipinos regard him highly despite efforts by the Arroyo administration to blacken his image since being ousted in an Edsa People Power revolt in 2001.

Support even from A,B,C

"I want to thank the people for continuing to believe in me in spite of the fact that I have spent the last six years, five months and eight days in jail," the ousted leader said.

Estrada was also elated that his mass support extended to the middle and upper classes, with 79 percent of the respondents belonging to the Class A, B and C levels.

"The SWS survey just shows that the people consistently believe in me and not in this administration," he

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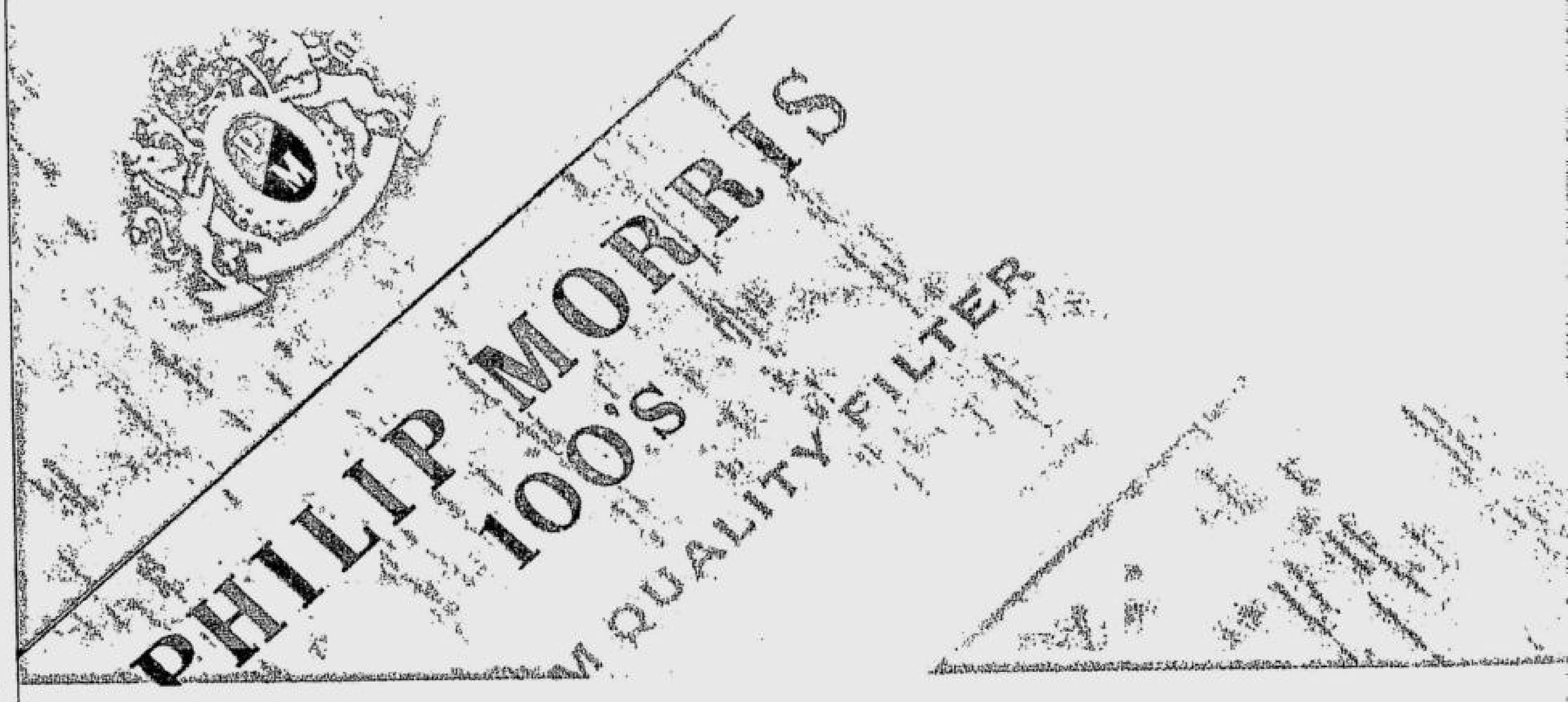

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Estrada camp's motives in
the survey. *With a report*
Ubac

Sison denied access to media

By TJ Burgonio

AFTER LAST FRIDAY'S HEARING, Jose Ma. Sison has been denied access to TV, radio and newspapers in his cell at a penitentiary facility in The Hague, the Netherlands, his Filipino lawyer said yesterday.

The founding chair of the Communist Party of the Philippines, now facing charges for the killings of two former comrades, has also been barred from receiving medicine from outside, and receiving visitors except his lawyer.

"The present treatment being given to him is the same kind of treatment given to prisoners being held by the United States in Guantanamo," lawyer Romeo Capulong said in a phone interview.

"Clearly, these are violations of his rights under international law. In fact, he should be accorded his right as a prisoner of conscience. The Dutch government has no right to treat him as a terrorist," Capulong said.

But National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales said Sison was being treated fairly under Dutch laws.

"The trial is not in the Philippines, but in the Netherlands, and the Dutch (government) is known for its commitment to fairness. I'm sure Joma (Sison) is (being) treated fairly," Gonzales told reporters.

A Dutch court on Friday ordered Sison to be detained at the Scheveningen Penitentiary Facility for two more weeks so prosecutors could investigate charges against him.

After the hearing, Sison was detained "at the very cell where Milosevic was confined and died while in prison," according to Capulong, quoting Sison's European lawyers.

Yugoslavia strongman Slobodan Milosevic was found dead in his cell on March 12, 2006, four years into his war crimes trial.

Until his arrest, Sison has been fiercely fighting to get himself and the CPP-National Democratic Front of the Philippines delisted from the European Union's terror list.

"He is held in solitary confinement and presently incommunicado," Capulong said.

Sison, who is suffering from a heart ailment, was also prohibited from receiving "maintenance medicine" from his wife Julie and allowed only to obtain medicine prescribed by the penitentiary doctor, according to Capulong. *With a report from AFP*

'I hope Sison is finally . . .

From page A1

Jan. 23, 2003, in a Japanese restaurant, also in Quezon City.

The CPP has claimed responsibility for both killings, saying Tabara and Kintanar were engaged in "criminal and counter-revolutionary activities."

Ideological differences

Tabara and Kintanar were erstwhile top communist rebel leaders who broke away from the CPP-NPA in 1992 over ideological differences with Sison.

Tabara formed the RPA-ABB in 1998 and entered into a peace agreement with the government under the administration of President Joseph Estrada in 2000.

Tabara's widow said her husband, Kintanar and many of their comrades became disillusioned with the Stalinist approach of Sison that saw violence as an option for change.

She said she was aware that the day she and her husband, and many of their other comrades left the CPP-NPA, their lives were all in danger.

In fact, she said, she knew that her life remained in danger and that she had been taking security precautions against NPA hit men.

The widow said she was overjoyed to hear that Sison had finally been arrested because it brought a glimmer of hope that she would attain justice for her husband.

"Sison has been mainly responsible for ordering the elimination of those who have opposed his leadership," she said.

The widow said it was also "hypocritical for the CPP-NPA to invoke human rights violations, when they have actively violated and failed to respect the basic rights of others."

Bar . . .

From page A1

Many gave up part of their social lives, foregoing movies and malling to read up on the law in preparation for the annual bar exam, which began yesterday. The exam is to be held on the four Sundays of September.

In an attempt to ease the tension, schoolmates, families and friends provided all kinds of support, including cheering for the examinees.

The tension spread to motorists. One frustrated jeepney driver commented that he would give up his job if the traffic was as heavy as it was early yesterday morning on the first day of the exam.

A portion of Taft Avenue, where De La Salle University, venue of the exam, is located, was closed to traffic. As a result, vehicular flow in other portions of the road and nearby streets were snarled.

Nathalie Abad, an Arellano School of Law graduate, told the INQUIRER that she had to cut back on trips to the mall, meetings with friends and even exercise so she could pore over law books and attend review classes, which she started six months earlier.

Twice during her review, she got hospitalized and was advised by doctors to have a complete bed rest for a week. However, she decided to get up after four days because she felt her time would be better spent studying.

"My time would be wasted if I just stayed in bed," she said. But she learned that maintaining good health was essential.

Billeted at nearby hotel

On the eve of the bar, Abad was reviewing in her room at the nearby Century Park hotel, where many of the examinees stayed.

Among those billeted at the hotel were examinees from University of the Philippines, who had law students to run errands and do research for them as part of the "bar operations."

Members of UP Women In Law (Winlaw) bought coffee and snacks, looked up republic acts and law doctrines, gave out reviewers called "tips" and provided pre-dawn wake-up calls to the examinees.

The Winlaw members acceded to every request, including looking for 24-hour coffee shops to buy the kind of coffee that an examinee had asked for, and peeling and cutting apples for snacks.

"We don't mind doing things for them. It's part of the support we give them. It's better if they devote their time to reviewing," said one member.

Goodie bags, grilled bangus

Examinees from UP were also given "goodie bags" containing water, tissue, chocolates, candies and crackers, among others, to take to the exam venue.

Other schools set up tents on Taft Avenue and laid out food and reviewers for their examinees when they take their lunch break.

Some were seen grilling bangus, eggplant and pork chops.

A number of last year's successful bar examinees also came to provide encouragement to their schoolmates.

Ninth placer Timothy Mendoza and other 2006 bar passers visited the examinees at the Century Park on Saturday night.

Alumni and officials of schools like San Beda, Ateneo de Manila University, University of Pangasinan and Far Eastern University and Philippine Law School were also present to cheer on their schoolmates.

Family members came and gave out words of encouragement as the examinees lined up to enter De La Salle.

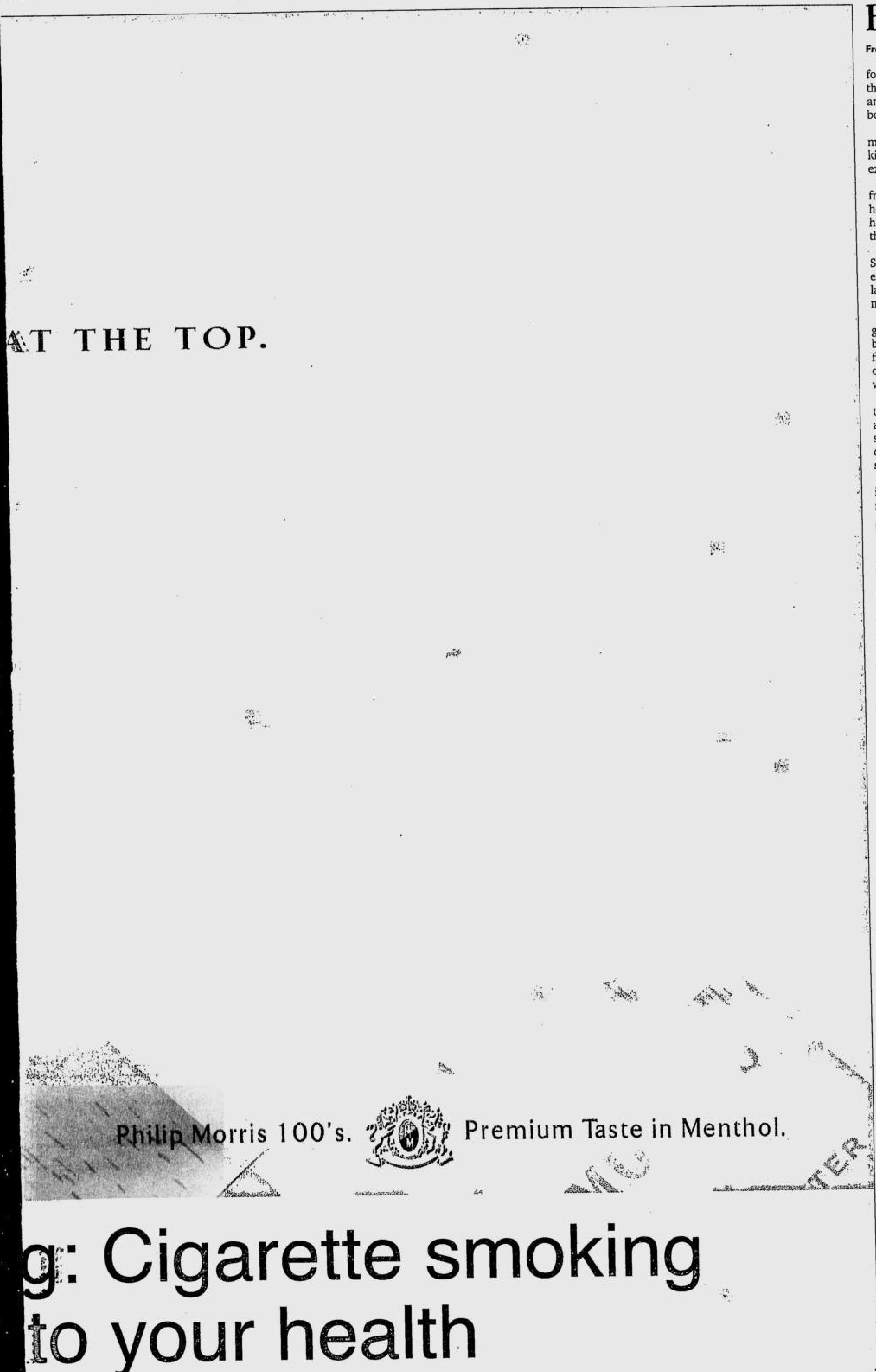
Drums, confetti gone

The send-off for the examinees was less rambunctious this year. Gone were the booming drums and colorful confetti, which were abundant last year.

The Supreme Court has prohibited streaking, *ati-atihan*, bands and "fiesta-like" activities that disturb the examinees in the perimeter of De La Salle on the day and on the eve of the tests.

Noisy activities are also banned.

A total of 5,804 law graduates applied to take the bar exam, lower than the 6,345 who took it last year partly because of the new rule barring law graduates from taking the exam if they had failed it five times.



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Learned stupidity

EDITORIALS

ANOTHER YEAR, ANOTHER SENSELESS DEATH. IN what is likely another fraternity hazing rite gone deadly wrong, University of the Philippines senior Cris Anthony Mendez was rushed to the hospital a week ago and then abandoned at the emergency room; by then he was already dead. The Sigma Rho fraternity is suspected of involvement, and its leaders in the Diliman campus have been suspended for 30 days, pending an investigation.

Yet again the specter of campus violence rears its hideous head, and another academic community, devoted to the ideals of character formation and higher education, finds itself shaken to its roots. How can some of its most able students, among the country's most qualified scholars, prove capable of the most brutal, the most barbaric, violence?

Last Friday, UP students led by Mendez' schoolmates in the National College of Public Administration and Governance marched around the Diliman campus to protest his senseless death. From the United States, where she is meeting UP alumni, UP President Emerlinda Roman issued a short but resolute statement, vowing to "spare no effort" to bring the guilty to justice.

But Roman also said something we cannot agree with: "This sporadic, irrational violence is not only a hideous blot on the University's record, but a source of great sorrow to individual families," she said. It is irrational and it is a monstrous stain, but in truth campus violence, especially in fraternity initiation rites, is not sporadic at all. It is institutionalized, and goes on all the time.

It only seems sporadic because not all hazing victims die. But every year, every semester, student organizations with a tradition of violence subject new members to needlessly violent initiation rites. History's lesson is lost on the hope of the future: some of the most intelligent members of the next generation do not understand, or refuse to accept, that the spiral of violence really does exist.

So they paddle an initiate's thighs, they roughhouse a blindfolded recruit, they stub out a burning cigarette on a new member's exposed skin: They do all these, and more, because they are conscious of having survived similarly violent rites themselves. Having been similarly initiated, they have compartmentalized reason and learned to be base, to be brutish—in a word, to be stupid—all over again.

Thus the cycle of violence continues.

Sweeping statement

THE DECISION OF THE SANDIGANBAYAN TO sentence former Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez to a maximum of 50 years in prison, for the anomalous purchase of 55,000 broomsticks in 1996 and 1997, is harsh but welcome. Public officials who violate the anti-graft law must be judged strictly and punished severely; that is the only way to stop the crooks.

"A perusal of the prosecution's evidence would readily reveal, even from a layman's perspective, that the local government of Parañaque was seriously prejudiced by the transactions under review," the decision read.

But from a layman's perspective, there is also something amiss with the adverse ruling against Marquez and three other city officials. Marquez is a comedian whose political star has faded; he does not exactly send ordinary citizens or even fellow officials into spasms of fright. In other words, the "something amiss" that the public senses with the Sandiganbayan's decision has to do with the kind of politician Marquez is: the out-of-power kind.

This is obviously not the fault of the court; in anti-graft cases, the onus always lies with the prosecution—in other words, with the omni-powerful office of the Ombudsman.

But the same office (to give only one out of many possible examples) had labored mightily over the anomalous Mega Pacific case, and produced a mouse of a decision. The Supreme Court found something decidedly amiss with the contract, but the Ombudsman hemmed and hawed and finally declared: It may have been irregular, but no one was liable for it.

Because this perfect crime was associated with officials perceived as close to Malacañang, the all-embracing exoneration fueled public skepticism about justice, Arroyo administration-style.

The law, we know all too well, must be applied equally. Unfortunately for both Marquez and the skeptical public, both this administration and the Ombudsman it appointed do not seem to have a broom big enough to sweep all crooks to justice.

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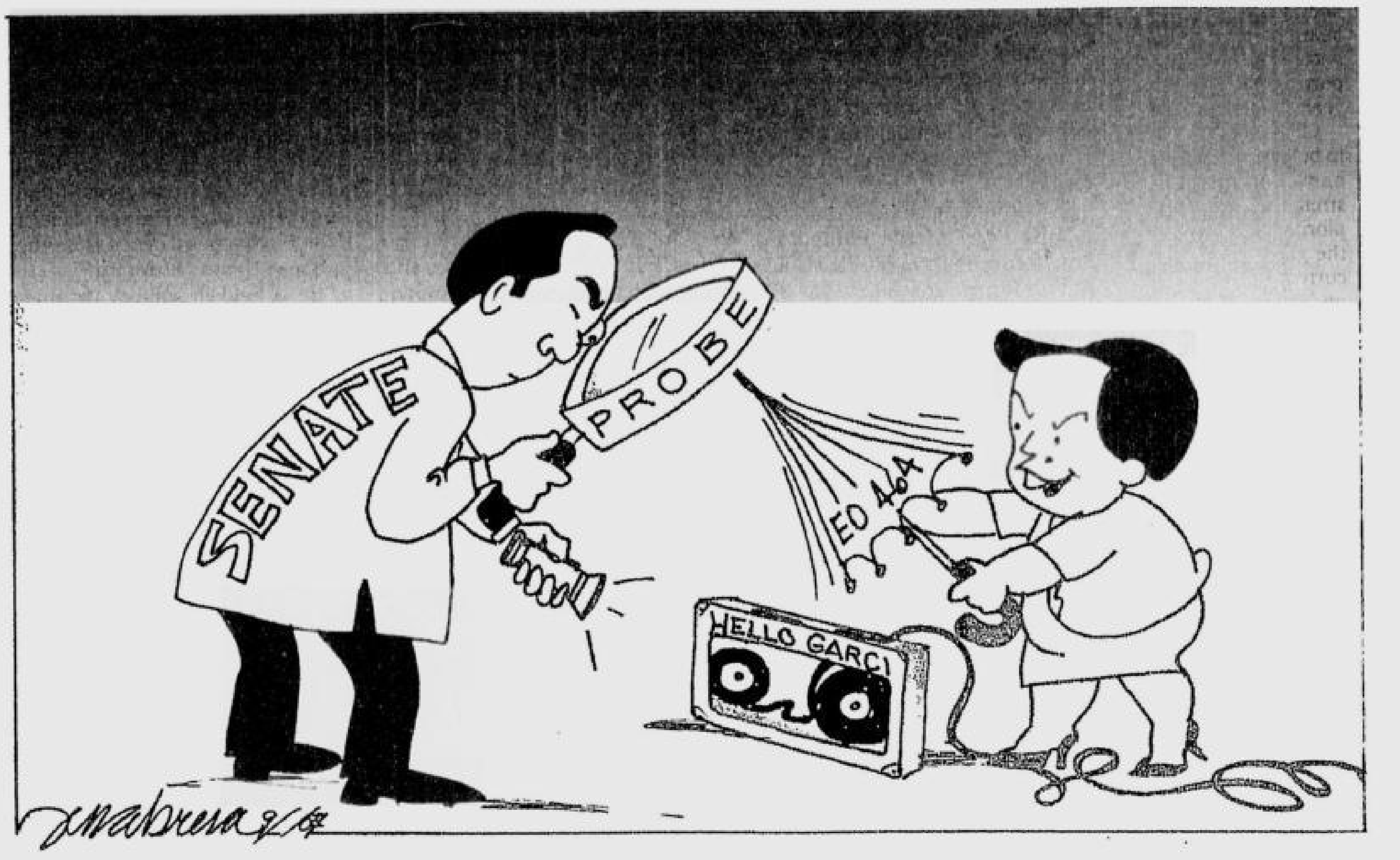

What 'economic growth' means to the poor

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

I WAS SO OVERJOYED BY NEWSPAPER REPORTS that the economy grew by 7.5 percent (if President Macapagal-Arroyo is telling the truth) that I went to the window and shouted the good news for all the world to hear. One of those who heard me was my squatter-neighbor.

"What does it mean?" he asked in Filipino.

"It means," I said, "that the GDP grew by 7.5 percent, the biggest growth in 20 years."

"What's GDP?" my neighbor asked.

"Gross Domestic Product," I replied.

"What's that?" he asked again.

"It's the amount of goods and services produced by the country at a given time," I explained.

"I still don't understand," he said.

"Goods," I explained like a teacher, "are the crops that our farmers grew and harvested, the products that our workers manufactured in the factories, and thousands of other products. Services are those tasks done by our workers, like waiters, barbers, drivers, hairdressers, tailors, etc. They all have values and a government agency estimates these and adds them all up and comes up with the GDP."

"I see," said my neighbor. "But who verifies the estimates? How sure are we that the figures are correct?"

"Well, when the government says these are the figures, they must be correct, don't you think so?"

"I don't think so. They are just numbers. It's so easy to change them or even invent figures."

"Are you saying that the government is lying?" I asked, shocked.

"I am not saying that the government is lying. What I am saying is that how can we be sure that the numbers are correct. It could be deliberately lying or simply an honest mistake. In estimates, figures tend to be optimistic."

"But they must have made long and careful computations," I said.

"Then it must be the other. It is very hard to believe the optimistic figures. If the economy grew by that much why am I and millions like me still poor? Why can't I get a job? Why don't I have a house of my own?"

"But can't you see those new houses over there?" I said pointing. "They have jobs."

"Those people are OFWs. They earned what they have in other countries, not here."

"Why don't you work abroad then?" I asked.

"Why do Filipinos have to go abroad to get jobs?" he persisted. "Why can't we have jobs in our own country?"

"Because we don't have enough jobs in our own country," I replied.

"What good is a 7.5-percent growth then, if it does not provide more jobs for us jobless? What good is a so-called robust economy if it does not put food on our table?"

"Well, it makes the factories and businesses earn more."

"Businessmen earn more, yes, but aren't they the rich ones already? So our economic growth only makes the rich richer and us poor poorer."

"But can't you see, when the businessmen earn more they can hire more people and therefore provide jobs."

"Where are the jobs?" my neighbor asked plaintively. "I have been looking for a job, any job, for so long I must have worn out a dozen sandals."

"Stop complaining and look some more," I said, beginning to get irritated. "You won't find a job by complaining."

"I'm not the only one who can't find a job. There are millions of others like me. They are all looking but can't find any."

"Why don't you apply for a job abroad."

"Don't you think I tried? I envy those bragging about the good life abroad. When my neighbors turn full blast their stereos brought home by their husbands, my heart bleeds."

"So why don't you go to a recruiter?"

"I did. Not only once, but twice."

"So what happened?"

"I was asked to pay so many charges: application fee, visa fee, processing fee, etc. The recruiter keeps asking for more and more fees. My father sold our carabao and farm in the province to pay for my fees. 'Never mind, Tatang,' I told him. "When I start earning, we'll get it all back and more.'"

"So why are you still here?" I asked. "Why aren't you working abroad?"

"Because my recruiter has disappeared."

"I'm sorry to hear that," I said. "You said you applied twice. What happened to the second?"

"Yes, I went to another recruiter. My father sold his house to pay for the new set of fees. This time I got as far as the airport."

"What happened?"

"I wasn't able to even set foot on the plane."

"Why?"

"All my papers were fake!"

"So what did you do?"

"I went to the Department of Labor to complain."

"And what did they do there?"

"They took my statement, shaking their heads and clucking their tongues, and told me to go home and they will have the recruiter arrested."

"So they arrested him?"

"No."

"No? Why not?"

"They said they couldn't find him."

"And that's the end of it?"

"That's the end of it. That's also the end of our farm, house and carabao. My Tatang was furious."

"Oh God, I'm sorry to hear that. Never mind," I tried to console him. "With the growth in the economy, maybe you will get a job and you will get it all back"

"When? When I'm already dead?"

Justice

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

GMA IS ECSTATIC: "IT'S A GIANT STEP TOward peace, a victory for justice and the rule of law." Norberto Gonzales is beaming and cannot contain his excitement.

They are referring of course to the arrest and detention in the Netherlands of Jose Ma. Sison, officially a "consultant of the NDF," unofficially still its leader, spiritual or otherwise. A statement of the Public Prosecutor's Office in The Hague said tersely: "Sison was suspected of giving orders from the Netherlands to murder his former political associates in the Philippines, Romulo Kintanar and Arturo Tabara."

I agree heartily with GMA and Gonzales's sentiments. If it is true that Sison has committed these crimes—and there are witnesses aplenty, not the least of them the widows of the dead, to testify so—then his arrest is indeed a giant step toward peace, a victory for justice and the rule of law. Then there is indeed every reason, from the perspective of freedom, human rights, and all that democracy holds sacred, to be very excited about it.

Frankly, I don't understand what people are doing marching in the streets, banging heads with fully shielded and truncheon-wielding cops, to protest Sison's arrest. Their complaint apparently is that the arrest was the product of connivance between the Philippine and Dutch governments. You grant that is so, what of it? I myself have gotten text jokes from friends—we've become past masters in the art of gallows humor—saying it was really Manny Pacquiao who paid off Dutch officials to arrest Sison for the unforgivable crime of dancing with Ara Mina. It's the automatic response of every Filipino public official who is accused of a crime to say the accusation is "politically motivated." So freaking what? If it's true, who the hell cares how it is motivated?

Lady Justice certainly doesn't. While at this, you must really have gotten cynical, if not completely batty, to imagine that if justice in this country is a natural hostage to political expedience, it must be so too in other countries. Well, other countries still have a justice system that dispenses justice, other countries still believe that where there is a crime there must be punishment.

The only thing the marchers are going to accomplish by their protest, or protestations, is to subvert their own cause. The reason they've been unable to get a flood of sympathy to tumble their way over the horrific, and truly alarming, massacre of activists in recent years is also that they themselves have made it the hardest thing in the world. Not least by the spectacle of party-list representatives toasting the assassination of a former comrade, who was Kintanar. That was a truly ugly image and may have done more to douse the fires of public outrage over Palparan's subsequent mayhem than any official justification of it. As one reader put it, serves them right. His argument might have been thoroughly dimwitted—nothing can, or may, ever justify the massacre of political activists (and journalists)—but his anger would have found more than faint echoes in many hearts and minds.

I share GMA and Gonzales's sentiments about Sison's arrest. I do not share the belief that they are the best persons to express them. In fact, I don't know why they should be wondrously gleeful about this when it gives them more than a glimpse of the future that awaits them. The fact that people cannot read the writing on the wall does not mean that the things the writing foretells will not befall them. Ignorance is not bliss, it is doom.

Sison's arrest is a victory for justice and the rule of law; it is not a victory for GMA and Gonzales. On the contrary, it is defeat for them. It says that no one, neither Left nor Right, neither man nor woman, neither peasant nor king (or queen), may escape the relentless pursuit of the hounds of justice. It says that no time or space may ever prove safe for a murderer, you stand to be indicted and punished for your crime whether you committed it 10 minutes ago or 10 decades ago, whether you remained in the country of your birth or fled to the country of your choice, least of all the Netherlands, seat of the World Court. It says that murder, whether personally or politically motivated, is never justified, whether it is the rebels that wreak it in the name of eliminating enemies of the people or the government that does in the name of ridding the world of a scourge—least of all an unduly constituted government.

That cannot be a comfort to either GMA or Gonzales, both of whom stand accused of committing murder on a mind-boggling scale, by commission or omission, by command responsibility or irresponsible command, by ardent desire or abject failure to rein in the dogs of violence. The one message the Dutch authorities' decision to arrest Sison does not send is that because he is quite possibly a dirty rotten scoundrel this government is right to mount, Nazi-style, a pogrom or genocide against the people who believe in the cause he represents. The message it does send is that you do something like that, you are a dirtier and more rotten scoundrel and will have to face the judgment of your peers—no, your betters, since if you are a murderer an honest judge or jury will always be your superior—one day.

I personally welcome the Dutch move to arrest Sison in much the same way that I welcomed the Hawaii court's decision to indict Marcos, and the LA appellate court's decision to uphold its verdict by citing the Yamashita doctrine. That doctrine says a leader who allows atrocity to happen when he is in a position to stop it shares the guilt and burden of that atrocity. Well may GMA and Gonzales gloat over Sison's fate; little do they know the same rope is tightening around their necks. A rope labeled:

Justice.

The Mexican amparo

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

SEVERAL BAR EXAMINATIONS AGO THE FIRST item in the Bar Examination Questions for Political Law was "What is a writ of amparo?" There was a lot of head scratching among the examinees upon seeing the question. Almost nobody knew anything about the animal or had ever heard about it. But now the writ of amparo has become a front-page subject and might be an important item in the Bar Examinations after this year.

Chief Justice Reynato Puno has shown himself to be passionately committed to the protection of human rights. In his effort to find ways of strengthening the protection, he has started exploring the potential of the writ of amparo to fill the gaps in the mantle of protection offered by current law and jurisprudence. For this purpose I understand that he has commissioned my classmate and friend Justice Dolf Azcuna to study what the Supreme Court can do about making a writ of amparo effective in the Philippines. Fittingly so, since it is no secret that it was Justice Azcuna as Bar Examiner several years ago who surprised the examinees with the question about the writ of amparo. He probably knows more about it than any lawyer or jurist in the Philippines.

At any rate, what is the writ of amparo?

Amparo simply means protection. The recurso de amparo is an all-purpose remedy very much in use in the Mexican legal system. It is, in the words of a justice of the Mexican Federal Supreme Court, one piece of Mexico's self-attributed "task of conveying to the world's legal heritage that institution which, as a shield of human dignity, her own painful history conceived." The writ has been described as "the most Mexican institution of the whole of positive Mexican law.

The reference to the painful history as the mother of the writ of amparo might discourage those who wish to introduce it into the Philippines. Some in fact would dismiss the Latin American amparo on the argument that the caudillos would never allow the development of an effective legal theory in the area of political law. Scholars have pointed out that between 1935 and 1975 Latin America experienced more than one hundred successful coups and many more unsuccessful ones—on an average of more than twelve coups per country. Nevertheless this should not dissuade us from exploring the potential of the Latin American writ. After all, we still lag far behind in terms of number of coups!

Mexico is the birthplace of amparo. The first thing to notice about it is that it is expressly provided for in the Mexican Constitution—currently in Articles 103 and 107. How the system got into the Constitution is itself historically interesting.

The first stage of its development was philosophical. At the heart of amparo is the idea of judicial review of governmental action. It is said that the idea came to Mexico under the strong influence of American thought especially through the arrival in Mexico of the Spanish translation of Alexis de Tocqueville's Democracy in America. This happened in 1837, three years before the appearance of amparo. The American idea, born in the context of revolution against a colonial power, found a responsive chord in the new nations of Latin America which had long experienced colonial rule.

The idea eventually found its way into the Mexican Constitution initially through the instrumentality of a federal politician named Manuel Crecencio Rejon. Rejon returned to his native state of Yucatan which had then seceded after a rebellion from the rest of Mexico. There he headed a central constitutional reform commission where he proposed to include a judicial review procedure. His aim was to give state courts the power to protect individuals against state abuses.

Rejon eventually returned to Mexico City where he participated in the drafting of a new Constitution. He brought with him his Yucatan idea. But it was mainly Mariano Otero who pushed what came to be known as the "Otero Formula" and which became Article 25 of the new Mexican Constitution. Article 25 contained the heart of amparo. It said: "The Courts of the Federation will protect [amparán] any inhabitant of the Republic in his exercise and conservation of those rights conceded to him by the Constitution and the constitutional laws, against all assaults of the Legislative and Executive Branches, on the federal as well as the state levels . . ."

The formula has since developed into an all-purpose multi-faceted amparo: (a) the Liberty Amparo (amparo de libertad); (b) the Constitutionality Amparo (amparo contra leyes); (c) the Judicial or "Cassation" Amparo, aimed at the constitutionality of a judicial interpretation; (d) the Administrative Amparo (amparo como contencioso-administrativo); and (e) the Agrarian Amparo (amparo en matera agraria, ejidal y comunal).

The Mexican amparo basically takes the form of judicial review. Much of what it is designed for is already covered by our legal system. But what interests us most is the amparo de libertad, which is the original amparo and which goes beyond the protection given by the traditional writ of habeas corpus.

Our Constitution has one open-ended provision which, in tandem with the Bill of Rights and the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, can accommodate expansion. The provision says that the Supreme Court shall "Promulgate rules concerning the protection and enforcement of constitutional rights . . ." This is the seed that the Chief Justice hopes to nurture into a Philippine recurso de amparo that is fast, simple and efficacious.

Educating communities at war

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Antonio J. Montalvan II

THEY NARRATED THEIR STORIES TO ME AS passionately as they felt about their work. If in war there are combatants, the men facing me were combatants too, but of the more profound variety, for they were certainly waging a battle for the hearts and minds of young school children. They were principals and school superintendents coming from the new province of Sharif Kabungsuwan. There were both Muslims and Christians in the group but as they told me, religious affiliations didn't matter to them at all for they were all focused on their role in the communities they serve. That had become an understatement by the time they had told me their story.

Early last week, a friend in academe, Dr. Amor de Torres, recently minted with an Outstanding Thomasian Award from the University of Sto. Tomas, asked me if I wanted to meet the principals of Sharif Kabungsuwan. "They have something to tell you that may be unheard of," she promised. Later meeting the group for the first time, I understood the tone of apprehension in Amor's message.

War is a vicarious experience for many of us. But for these men, war was a reality that was inexplicably carved into their annual school calendar. I had never asked myself the question, "What does a teacher do in times of war?" In Sharif Kabungsuwan, the teacher stops teaching just as soon as the bullets start whizzing by. In the din of rapid fire, the community becomes a sudden ghost town. With war comes the empty stomach. Families become evacuees, migrating elsewhere and not coming back till the next semblance of a ceasefire.

But when the guns stop, several months shall have lapsed by then, effectively eroding into the Department of Education's standard 204-day school calendar. And sometimes when the guns stop, that calendar is well on its way to what would have been a well-earned finish line. What to do with the pupils? They get accelerated to the next grade. With acceleration comes no ability to read and write.

In the war zone, it becomes impossible to call for remedial classes. How does a teacher, whose salary gets perpetually delayed, volunteer with no pay to hold remedial classes? To begin with, how can those remedial classes be held at all when, even without war, Sharif Kabungsuwan's schools have no books and no teaching materials in schools where classrooms are few and far between? And where there are classrooms, there are no blackboards and desks? And who can hold classes when the schoolhouse becomes a haven for evacuees?

For us who have gone through the benefits of education, these are questions that baffle. But for school principals who have to live amidst the dread of war, they have stopped asking those questions. They have fought back. Not with guns but with books. Not with bullets but with classrooms and desks. For them, war has given them the breakthrough that the Department of Education has failed to provide. They have learned to become agents of good education by realizing the value of outsourcing and networking. My studies in anthropology have taught me that agency is the freedom to create and change events.

Pouring out their problems to NGOs, they secured school buildings, classrooms, desks, and most importantly books and teaching materials. One Muslim principal in a Sultan Kudarat municipality turned to a Catholic missionary from Tonga Island. "Help me, not in the name of religion, but in education," he told the priest. The priest helped the community build three makeshift classrooms. A private company engaged in trading gave 200 armchairs. Philippine Business for Social Progress gave books.

In the madrasah of a riverside village along the Rio Grande, students arrive at 10 in the morning each school day after negotiating the river to go to school. That's if they are not evacuees at the time; if they are, there would be no classes for months. The teacher turned to an NGO which gave a pumpboat to ferry the pupils from their riverside dwellings. But this was the Liguasan Marsh, site of many battles between the military and the Pentagon. The principals tell me that in Sharif Kabungsuwan, theirs is often a land of school dropouts. It is a land where war has abolished permanent residence.

Often we ask why there is war in Mindanao. For us who hold the stereotype of the Filipino Moro and the contrived image of Mindanao as often many in Manila have, we think we know the answers. But the one who does not know the answer and who keeps asking to this day is the school child who continues to dream dreams of a bright future. That school child may be a Moro, a Christian, or a Teduray. Who among us can answer his question?

"The backbone of the Mindanao problem is ignorance," says one principal, and certainly war makes sure that that becomes a vicious cycle. For some in the military, war is a stepping stone for higher military rank. "Militarization is never the solution," they all say in chorus. Of the 50 who enter elementary school, lucky it will be if some 20 enroll in high school. "Not all of the twenty finish first year," they say.

This is a land of dropouts, of school children who cannot read even in high school, of pupils who come to school with no slippers and no food. It is a face that these principals see, and into whose eyes they have gazed, and realized that this is the face of war.

"In war, there are no victors—and education is often the victim."

* * *

Comments to monta@cu-cdo.edu.ph

Official figures aren't carved in stone

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

THERE IS, APPARENTLY, A DEBATE GOING ON about the origin of the famous aphorism that there are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies, and statistics. One source noted in a University of York Department of Mathematics website quotes Sir Robert Giffen (1837-1910).

In the Economic Journal in 1892, Giffen wrote, "An old jest runs to the effect that there are three kinds of comparison among liars. There are liars, there are outrageous liars, and there are scientific experts. This has lately been adapted to throw dirt upon statistics. There are three degrees of comparisons, it is said, in lying. There are lies, there are outrageous lies, and there are statistics. Statisticians can afford to laugh at and profit by jokes at their expense. There is so much knowledge which is unobtainable except by statistics, especially the knowledge of the condition and growth of communities and growth of communities in the mass, that, even if the blunders in using statistics were greater and more frequent than they are, the study would still be indispensable. But just because we can afford to laugh at such jests we should be ready to turn them to account, and it is not difficult to discover one of the principal occasions for the jest I have quoted, and profit by the lesson."

I was reminded of this famous aphorism (regardless of its origin) when the government released its latest item of happy economic news, which produced glowing headlines around the world and some skeptical responses here at home. The President, incapable of mirth at the best of times, got cranky again when the latest glowing economic statistic got questioned at a press conference. When a reporter questioned the recently unveiled 7.5-percent GDP growth rate for the second quarter, the President snapped, "Are you saying our people are liars?" The President kept shaking her head and insisted, "never been!"

I don't know about the "never been" part. William Pesek of Bloomberg pointed out the public's memory may be short, but investors (and I'd assume, the President's fellow economists) have elephant-like memories. As Pesek put it, when he wrote in June 22 of how the President seemed frustrated that her optimism wasn't being shared by investor's services, "Unfair as that may sound, investors have a funny way of remembering when a government defaults on debt, as the Philippines did two decades ago."

I've never been one of those who've disliked the President's exhibitions of temper. My only criticism is she tries to hide it too often, when in many cases, it was not only healthy (for her: you know the old saying, better one day red than three days blue), but more often than not, the objects of her anger had it coming due to incompetence. And in the present case, the President, when she got snarky, was actually doing it out of a sense of professional solidarity. Before she was ever a politician, she was a member of academe; and academicians jealously guard their reputation for professionalism and objectivity.

So, when the President rhetorically asked, "are our people liars?," she knew that even her critics who are also economists concede that the NSO and NSCB, which crunch the numbers and produce GNP figures, are apolitical professionals. The most they will say, is what Felipe Medalla's suggested, which is to take a second look at the methods by which the official figures are arrived at.

So do the bureaucrats who produce official statistics lie? They don't. They merely adjust the figures at a later date.

For example, take past official figures concerning GDP growth. The 7.15-percent First Quarter 2004 GDP growth figure was eventually adjusted to 6.4 percent, while the 7.10-percent Second Quarter 2004 GDP growth figure was eventually adjusted to 6.2 percent. Earlier this year, the government had joyfully announced that GDP growth for the First Quarter was 6.9 percent, which was already remarkable and indeed, a cause for celebration in many respects. But more recently, it revised the figures and said GDP growth was 7.3 percent. With these changes, laymen like you and me can surely be pardoned by the President for asking why these numbers change.

My understanding is that these (earlier) adjustments are understandable, and in fact, the only surprising thing is if government didn't adjust its figures after scrutinizing them over and over again as more data comes in. This doesn't mean any deception is automatically involved, either prior to, or after, the adjustments. But just as the official figures are constantly reexamined by government itself, economists and other people outside government do the same thing.

And this includes constantly inquiring as to how the original and subsequent figures were arrived at. CV Jugo, a Filipino in Singapore, maintains a very interesting blog called "Placeholder" and in one entry (http://cvjugo.blogspot.com/2007/06/philippine-quarter-gdp-growth-dashboard.html) he pointed to Boo Chanco pointing to Peter Wallace, who asked the painful question of whether or not increased smuggling ending up distorting official figures.

Taking into consideration the reality that even among the experts, at times furious debates over the numbers and what they mean, can (and should!) take place, the President, as the teacher-in-chief, can take the lead in welcoming public debates on the official figures.

As it is, it's safe to say that what the President announced, her fellow economists are now analyzing, because that is what they do, always. Sometimes, that includes daring to ask the same thing the public always asks: Is anyone lying?

The point is, we should trust the experts, not out of blind faith or because their findings, properly explained, makes sense even to non-experts, but rather because what experts say are constantly challenged by their fellow experts, too. That's the scientific method.

Remembering Silvino Casillan

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

A RETIRED GSIS PENSIONER FROM NAGA CITY, SILVINO Casillan, passed away less than two weeks ago after confinement in the hospital. He was one of several individuals we had mentioned in earlier columns. I had never met him but I thought his plight was worth bringing to the attention of our people. We extend our deep sympathies to the members of his family.

* * *

Last Thursday evening, in a marathon, no-holds-barred encounter that ended past 2 o'clock the following morning, Winnie Monsod, I, and INQUIRER editors sat down with GSIS President and General Manager Winston Garcia and senior members of his staff. The meeting, requested by Garcia, was for the purpose of sorting out issues concerning GSIS operations and INQUIRER coverage of these and other related matters.

At the start, Winston Garcia explained in detail the advantages of the e-Card system now employed by the GSIS. He argued strongly that with all its shortcomings—which he referred to as occasional glitches—was a much better system than what existed in the past. He cited statistics indicating that only a small percentage of GSIS beneficiaries had problems with the system. In her Saturday column, Winnie Monsod had something to say on this matter that put a cloud over the validity of Garcia's claim.

In the case of complaining public school teachers, Garcia revealed that he had asked for DepEd records, offering to accept those records in lieu of GSIS figures. Up to now, he said, no response has been received from DepEd.

Garcia pointed out that he is the only president/general manager of GSIS to be given a clean bill of health by the Commission on Audit, a distinction, he said, that none of his predecessors share.

On Union Bank: Under constant prodding by Winnie Monsod, he defended the selection of the Aboitiz family's Union Bank as GSIS's depository bank replacing the Land Bank of the Philippines.

The scene on Thursday night, which can best be described in terms of a battlefield engagement, had Garcia as a military commander under heavy and sustained attacks from a determined and well-prepared adversary (Monsod). When supporting units of the commander joined the action, they, too, came under withering fire from the opposing force.

The exchange was fascinating and provided this old soldier with some insights into the dynamics between government institutions like GSIS and the banking community. The Sunday INQUIRER story provides more details on the controversy.

Towards the end, Garcia apologized for the shortcomings of GSIS, adding that he had put in place strict office orders requiring his officials to respond to complaints immediately—within 10 working days—or face heavy disciplinary/administrative action. He expressed his determination to cut down the "glitches" in the system.

There is something to be said about this type of conference between government officials and news editors and columnists. Unfortunately, they often take place only when controversy is at the heart of the meeting.

On a personal note, Garcia informed me that he was never in Paris in recent weeks. He was in the United States on a family vacation. In my last column, I implied that he was in Paris visiting some night spots. My intel on his whereabouts was erroneous. I accept responsibility for that error and extend my apologies to Mr. Garcia.

* * *

When my parents had me baptized with the name "Ramon"—my birthday falls on August 31, the Feast Day of San Ramon Nonnatus—little did they realize that I would be sharing the name and birth date of the most beloved of Philippine presidents. August 31 is also the birthday of Jaime Cardinal Sin, one of the great leaders of the Roman Catholic Church in Asia.

In 1953, Ramon Magsaysay won the presidency in a landslide victory over Elpidio Quirino. At that time, I was a plebe at the Philippine Military Academy. Even in distant and isolated Loakan, site of Fort Del Pilar, there was an air of hope and confidence in the future, a sense of direction and leadership against an alien ideology as the new president took office.

When our class graduated, President Magsaysay ordered all the new officers to be fielded against Hukbalahap forces in the southern Tagalog region that had become a hotbed of the insurgency.

* * *

Last Friday, together with other Ramons led by Senator Ramon Magsaysay, Jr., Penny and I joined a tree-planting ceremony at Camp Aguinaldo to mark the centennial of Ramon Magsaysay's birth. The trees in Camp Aguinaldo, along with a hundred thousand others that were being planted in various places in the country—places where Ramon Magsaysay is remembered with love and gratitude—would be called the Ramon Magsaysay Centennial Trees.

We chose to plant one directly in front of the Camp Aguinaldo grandstand and we hope that through the years this particular tree will grow not only to provide greenery and shade to AFP Headquarters but also serve to remind our soldiers that it was a secretary of national defense based in what was then known as Camp Murphy that led the nation out of a dark period in its history. Magsaysay restored the people's trust and confidence in their Armed Forces and in the process defeated the forces of an insurgency that at one point was at the gates of Manila threatening to take over the nation's capital.

The tree-planting activity brought to mind the famous lines by Joyce Kilmer:

> "I think that I shall never see
> A poem as lovely as a tree....
> Poems are made by fools like me
> But only God can make a tree."

THEY SAID

Chilling similarity

"The attitude that this administration has adopted on the Jonas Burgos case and, indeed, on the entire issue of political killings and disappearances—compliant at worst, uncaring and incompetent at the very least—bears a chilling similarity to the (attitude of the) authorities that stood by, watched and did nothing as my father was murdered."

—Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, in his first privilege speech as senator

God does not compromise

MY BEING A CATHOLIC, THOUGH PERhaps of the unworthy kind, impelled this little comment on Patricia Evangelista's column re sex education, condoms and extra-marital sex. (INQUIRER, 8/26/07)

Our population growth is alarming, no question about that. But we can address the problem in a dignified and natural way. To pander to the Filipino's sexual excesses would be to debase him—low as he already is with his perceived penchant for corruption. I still dream of a Filipino who, despite being poor, remains honorable and respectable.

We just commemorated Mother Teresa's 10th death anniversary. Her country of choice had much more serious population problems than the Philippines. But India is on the brink of becoming an economic power even though it did not resort to the "plastic device" as an instrument of national policy.

Our country can well be like India. Women's rights advocates may dismiss this proposition as impossible. But with God, everything is possible.

I vehemently disagree with Evangelista that "[t]o preach abstinence in a vacuum is not only ineffective, it is irresponsible." Man has a bad side, true, but he also has a good side. Extra-marital indiscretion has been with us since time immemorial and is likely to stay with us. But so have righteousness, discipline and self-control. Men and nations became great, but definitely not because of licentiousness.

The assertion that Catholic influence has shelved the congressional initiative for sex education may not be that factual. There is no Catholic vote, period. And no lawmaker voted for or against a legislative measure because he or she was Catholic.

To be sure, a woman does not have absolute sovereignty over her body. To quote from the third chapter of St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians: "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you whom you have from God and that you are not your own? For you have been purchased at a price. Therefore, glorify God in your body."

Is there a *vox populi* for contraception? For me, it is hardly audible. Illicit relationships have remained a source of embarrassment, shame and scandal. Consequences have been ruinous and, in countless instances, beyond repair. A law promoting the use of the condom will not improve our lot, let alone our morals. *Sex populi non est vox Dei*.

Evangelista appears to have intended a homily not only for her readers but also for God. According to her, "In a situation where the voice from above clashes against the voice of the people, even God has to learn how to compromise."

Sodom and Gomorrah came to mind. So did the earthquakes in 1990, the Mount Pinabuto eruption, the flash floods in Ormoc, Guinsaugon, Dingalan, Daraga, etc.

As far as I know my God, He does not compromise. As is obvious in Bible history, God will not capitulate to man's weaknesses and misadventures. Even if He forgives.

—EFREN C. CARAG,
4 Lataña St., Tahanan Village,
Parañaque City

DoE advised: Beware of the nuclear option

A FEW DAYS AGO, GEN. ANGELO REYES, newly appointed energy secretary, made an announcement: He was open to the nuclear option. With the looming shortage in energy supply, his office would study the possibility of using nuclear power.

This innovative approach was immediately confirmed by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Thus the Arroyo administration right away reversed a long-standing state policy adopted by the government of President Corazon Aquino, sustained and respected by the Ramos and Estrada administrations. It will be recalled that, following Edsa I and preponderant public opinion, Aquino mothballed the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant.

As Philippine Permanent Representative to the United Nations, including the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, Austria, from 1986 to 1992, I received congratulations from foreign ambassadors and delegations on that decision of the Aquino administration.

Nuclear power is not cheap; it is not clean either. It is the most dangerous form of energy ever harnessed by man. Nuclear wastes are radioactive or toxic for generations. The primordial concern of the international community, therefore, is: Where do nuclear nations safely store their nuclear wastes—deep in the bowels of the earth, inside rocky mountains, beneath the ocean floor, or in containers perpetually orbiting in the atmosphere?

Unless and until the Arroyo administration has developed a formula for foolproof storage of nuclear wastes, we sincerely urge it not to embark on a monumental folly. After all, the Philippines has other sources of energy—renewable and clean, like solar, hydro, wind, waves.

And we understand that there is, at present, sufficient energy for the country. The independent power suppliers during the term of President Fidel Ramos initiated the program. Of course, it is the systems of power lines which are grossly inefficient, inadequate or antiquated. It is time that the Arroyo administration addressed this anomaly.

—NELSON D. LAVIÑA,
ambassador (ret.),
nlavina2@fastmail.fm

UP-ASP commissioned to lower Huluga's value

THE CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY HISTORICAL and Cultural Commission (HISCCOM) is composed of people chosen by former Mayor Vicente Y. Emano, who is now vice mayor. Its main job is to protect Emano.

Our organization, the Heritage Conservation Advocates (HCA), issued a manifesto of protest against Emano in 2001 when he was still planning to destroy the Huluga archaeological site. HISCCOM was silent. It also didn't protest when Emano bulldozed Huluga in 2003.

That year, HCA filed a case against Emano and his contractor UKC Builders Inc. This year, HCA told the public about the quarrying and treasure-hunting in Huluga. We had a meeting with the new mayor, Constantino Jaraula, who called us "authorities." He is for heritage preservation. HISCCOM has only issued propaganda.

Under pressure, Emano and HISCCOM commissioned the University of the Philippines-Archaeological Studies Program (UP-ASP) in 2004 to produce a report that would attempt to decrease the archaeological value of Huluga. This goal is indicated by three major acts:

First, UP-ASP violated the archaeological code of ethics by not consulting local historians, sociologists, anthropologists and the archaeologist Dr. Erlinda Burton, who used to work with the famous British-Kenyan archaeologist Louis S.B. Leakey. UP-ASP didn't even consult the people who claimed ownership of the land it excavated.

Second, UP-ASP ignored a "midden" known to UP-ASP and the National Museum since 2003. A midden is an ancient garbage site, extremely critical to archaeological work. UP-ASP also ignored the fossils and artifacts found on Huluga surface by HCA in 2003, such as the whale harpoon head, which has a National Museum accession number of X-1991-Q2-484. For a detailed discussion of this issue, search "elizaga trash archaeology" in Google. My article is in mindanews.com.

Third, UP-ASP made a confusing conclusion when it declared Huluga "a habitation site, but unlikely a settlement site." These terms are synonymous in archaeology. One only has to check www.reference-wordsmith.com by lexicographer, linguist and registered professional archaeologist Dr. Barbara Ann Kipfer.

Instead of filing a case against UP-ASP for doing unethical and unscientific work disadvantageous to the people of the Philippines, HISCCOM keeps repeating the UP-ASP gobbledygook like a bloated parrot.

—ELSON T. ELIZAGA,
Heritage Conservation Advocates,
elson@elizaga.net

Corrupt anti-graft units

"BIG-TIME GRAFT ON THE RISE" AND "Watchdog to gov't: where's big fish"—front-page news stories of the INQUIRER last Aug. 1 and 2.

Even without reading completely the news items, I found the headlines perfectly correct, absolutely accurate, and more than self-explanatory of the actual graft situation in the country, notwithstanding government officials' claims to the contrary.

It is not true that there is less graft and corruption in the Philippines because even offices (e.g., the Office of the Ombudsman and the Commission on Audit) tasked to arrest the problem are infested with corrupt officials and personnel. These supposed independent constitutional offices are actually dens of corruption.

If they want evidence to prove corruption in their offices, numerous public reports about corruption should make for strong circumstantial evidence, aside from the other pieces of evidence in my possession.

—LIGORIO GM NAVAL,
114-B Alima, Bacoor, Cavite

An incredible charge

OF THE MANY CRIMES THE ARROYO ADministration ascribes to Jose Ma. Sison, it has chosen the most incredible to dupe the Dutch. It requires extraordinary credulity to believe that Sison ordered the killing of several persons in Leyte while he was imprisoned in Metro Manila by the Marcos dictatorship.

Why is this case raised only now, more than two decades after the alleged murders? Is it to divert attention from the deepening legitimacy crisis of the Arroyo regime?

—FRANCISCO NEMENZO,
former president,
University of the Philippines,
Diliman, Quezon City

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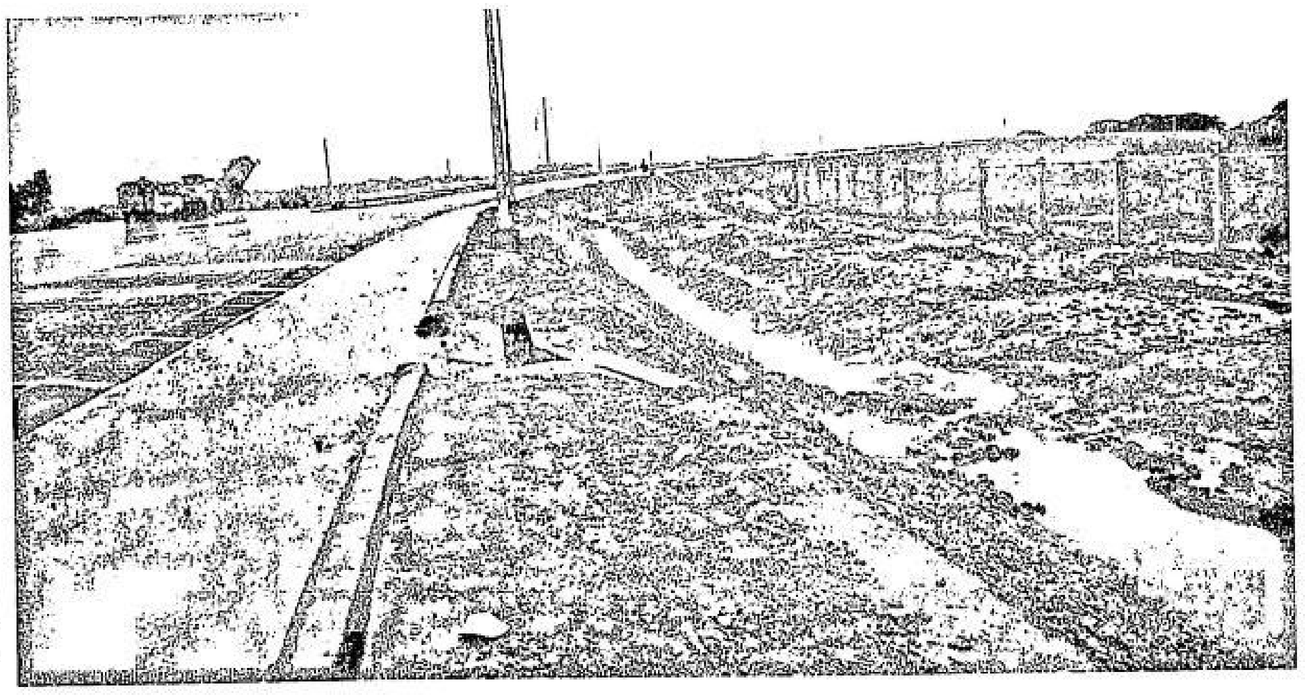
Japan firms demand ₱500M from BCDA

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CLARK FREEPORT—A JAPANESE consortium has continued to press payment of P500 million from the Bases Conversion Development Authority for its work on the 44-km Pampanga-Tarlac side of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway even as audits showed defects on those parts of the project.



STRONG RAINS erode these portions of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway in Clark. TONETTE OREJAS

The financial claims by the Hazama-Taisei-Nippon Steel Joint Venture (HTN) have not been paid because these are still the subject of an arbitration case between the BCDA and HTN, BCDA president Narciso Abaya told the INQUIRER on Saturday.

HTN is seeking P200 million for "acceleration cost," P200 million for pending claim, and P100 million for variation and change order as of May 2007, a copy of a letter by HTN project manager Kunio Kimata to Abaya and BCDA executive vice president Isaac Puno III showed.

The INQUIRER obtained the letter, received by the BCDA on June 15, from the Advocacy for the Development of Central Luzon (ADCL), a multisectoral watchdog monitoring the SCTEx.

Built on a P23.06 billion loan from the Japanese government and P4 billion from the BCDA, this highway traversing the western boundary of Central Luzon connects the Subic and Clark freeports and the Luisita Industrial Park, making the seaport and the two airports there accessible by just an hour.

The link was made in line with President Macapagal-Arroyo's vision to transform the two freeports into "Southeast Asia's best logistics hub."

Economist Bernardo Villegas said the SCTEx boosted Central Luzon's chance as a "little China."

But the construction of the SCTEx has been snagged by delays, with Japanese contractors complaining of late access to project sites.

The Kajima-Obayashi-JFE Engineering and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. Joint Venture (KOJM), the Japanese contractor on the 50-km Bataan-Pampanga side, was given a four-month extension up to March 2008 to catch up with works that were nearly 85-percent complete as of Aug. 31.

Abaya said the BCDA board was not keen on paying the acceleration cost demanded by HTN because the project engineer has found this to be "unacceptable and unwarranted."

"The reason is very simple. How can [HTN] claim acceleration [cost] when it is late? It said it mobilized additional machines and personnel but these should not be charged to the BCDA because it is their fault that they incurred slippage [delay]," Abaya said.

The acceleration cost is not among the items stated in HTN's original P8.5-billion contract, according to an INQUIRER source involved in Subic and Clark projects.

Payments for the two items are not coming soon until HTN has submitted documents supporting the claims for P300 million.

"Our consultants have no bases yet to assess and validate [the claims]," Abaya said.

Kimata declined to confirm the P500 million "request for settlement of pending payment" when interviewed after BCDA officials gave Pampanga officials and ADCL members a project briefing on Saturday.

In his letter, however, he said the "cost suffered by us for the above acceleration measures should be compensated appropriately."

"To recover the delay caused by the factors beyond the contractor's responsibility, the contractor has been required to work with nearly double work force in equipment and [man] power in order to maintain [the] same productivity even in [the] rainy season as [the] dry season," he said.

'Late site possession'

In the same letter, he attributed the delay to "late site possession" of the spur road connected to the North Luzon Expressway, to the interventions by the Mabalacat (Pampanga) and Concepcion (Tarlac) local governments, and to right-of-way problems arising from the agrarian and labor disputes at the Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac.

Kimata said the "late approval" of the BCDA on the kind of filling materials to be used, later agreed to be lahar topped with mountain soil, caused a "big delay" on the schedule.

"In the original schedule, we had expected to start this work from November 2005 as approved by the engineer. However, we could make a full swing activity only after October 2006. We entirely had lost one dry season," Kimata said.

Lawyer Regina Salvi Lapuz, head of the BCDA contracts management department, said HTN was ordered to redo a 52.5-meter span on M.A. Roxas Highway in Clark because that part was "short of the [required] thickness."

Barangay execs on 3rd terms can't run in polls

By Joey A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—THE DEPARTMENT OF the Interior and Local Government in Eastern Visayas reminded that barangay officials who are serving their third and last term are no longer eligible to run for the same posts in October.

The clarification was issued by the DILG here amid queries by incumbent barangay officials serving their last terms if they are covered by the three-term prohibition.

"Elective barangay officials are covered by the three-term limit like the elective provincial, city and municipal officials," said DILG-8 information officer Myles Joseph Colasito.

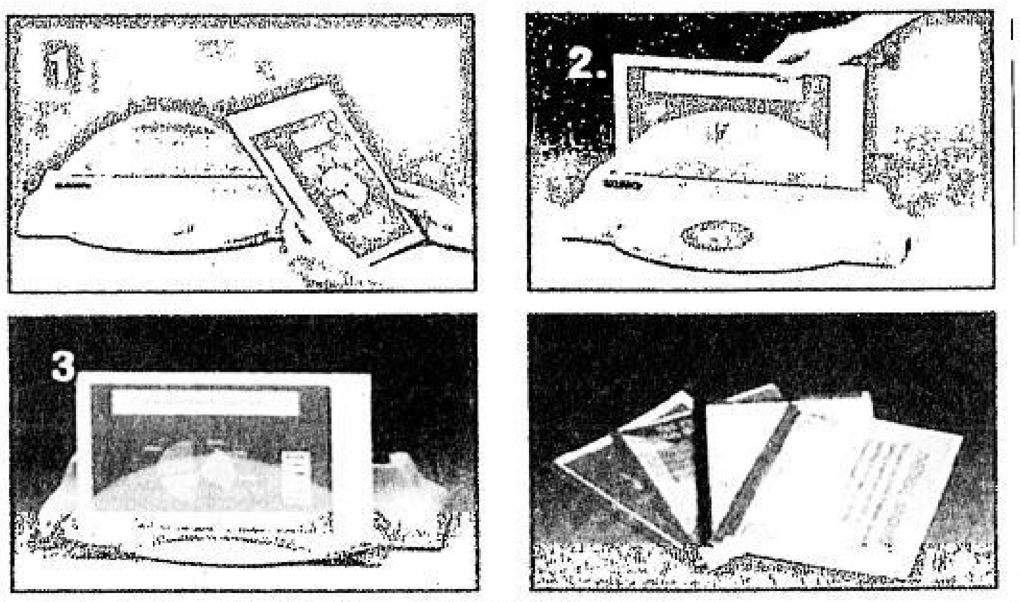
He said the term limit of barangay chairmen and council members was set under Section 2 of Republic Act 9164 which was passed by Congress in 2002. The law refers to the supposed elections of barangay and SK officials on that year but did not push through due to budgetary constraints, which resulted to the extension of the terms of the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan officials.

The Commission on Elections has set on Oct. 29 this year the conduct of the barangay and SK elections.

With the clarification, Colasito said officials now serving their last term should no longer entertain the thought of filing their certificates of candidacy for the posts they were about to vacate.

However, these incumbent officials covered by the prohibition could still run if they seek a different position, said Tacloban City operations officer Adoracion Peregrino.

Peregrino said 43 of the 138 barangay chairpersons in Tacloban are serving their last term.



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2629 series of 2007

Tubbataha seeks exclusion from exploration

By Redempto Anda
Inquirer Southern Luzon

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—OFficials of the world-famous sea sanctuary, Tubbataha Reefs National Marine Park, yesterday asked the Department of Energy to exclude over 15,000 hectares of its protected waters from oil and gas exploration.

Angelique Songco, park manager, said the management board approved a resolution asking the DOE to resolve the overlapping boundaries of the country's largest marine park and Service Contract 61 which it awarded to Burgundy Global Exploration Corp. in July 2006.

"We are very much concerned that an important area covered by the expanded Tubbataha park overlaps with an oil and gas concession, which means seismic exploration activities can and will affect marine life inside the park," Songco told the INQUIRER.

The Tubbataha Reefs, a pair of giant atolls teeming with marine life in the middle of the Sulu Sea, was designated a Unesco World Heritage Site as it represents a unique example of pristine atoll reef, with a very high diversity of fish. It was expanded as a protected area on Aug. 23, 2006, under Presidential Proclamation No. 1126.

Now covering a total area of 96,828 hectares, the park is located 92 nautical miles southeast of this city.

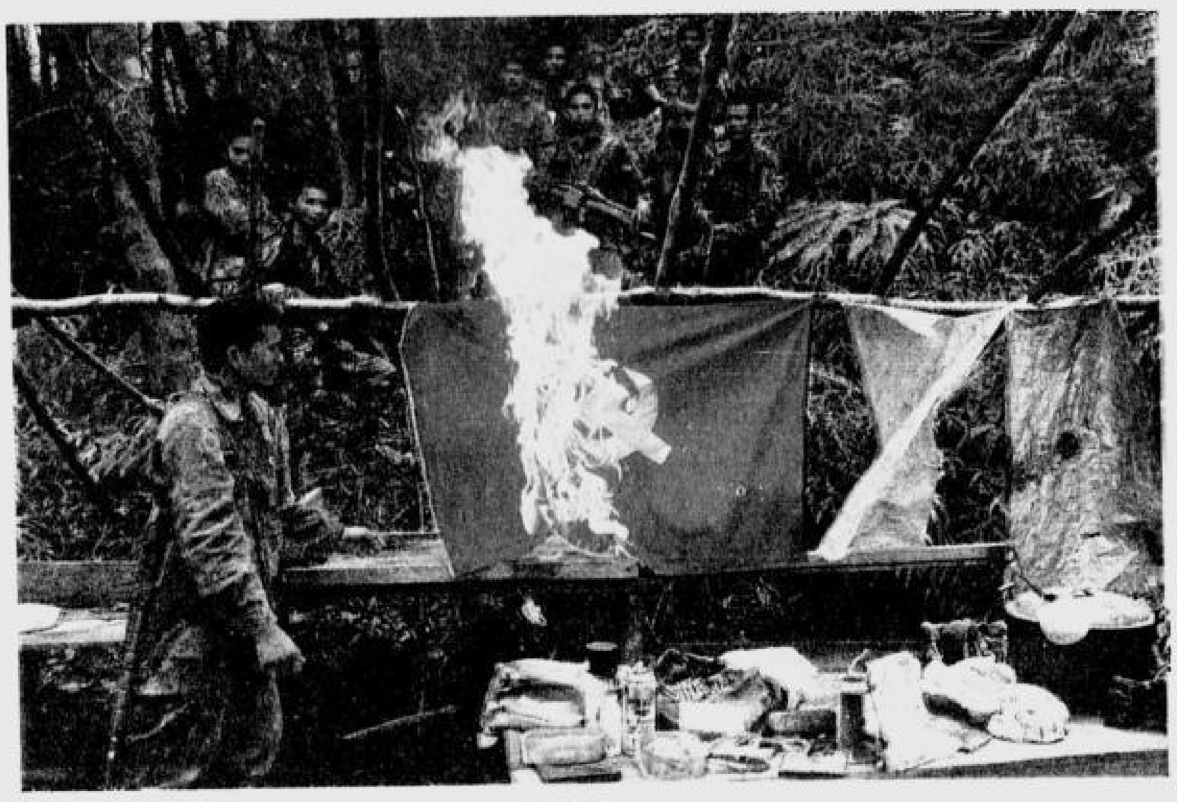
Songco said the Jessie Beazley Reef on the outer edge of the park was also covered under SC 61.

The reef is "an important source and sink area of the park," said Dr. Terry Aquino, a marine mammal specialist and consultant of the Tubbataha Management Office. "It is a very productive area for marine life and is very sensitive to disturbance caused by seismic explorations due to the presence of cetacean species which are sensitive to sonar."

Aquino proposed the establishment of a buffer area of at least 10 nautical miles around the Jessie Beazley.

"Seismic explorations caused by compressed air fired from the water surface during exploration activities can cause a lot of damage to Jessie Beazley, which is now just recovering since it was acquired by the park in 2006," he added.

SC 61 is one of the 28 petroleum service contracts awarded by the DOE to exploration companies. In a presentation to the provincial board on the status of these service contracts last month, the department noted that Burgundy Global was planning to conduct more seismic surveys there next year.



NPA CAMP SEIZED IN QUEZON RAFFY LERMA
Scout Rangers burn the Communist flag which they found after seizing a New People's Army camp in Sitio Madarik, Barangay Umiray, General Nakar, Quezon. The camp has 10 huts, six guard posts, a firing range and a basketball court.

Tayabas Bay fishers salvage century-old logs, artifacts

LUCENA CITY—TAYABAS BAY FISHERMEN in the Bondoc Peninsula area are busy not with harvesting marine wealth but with the retrieval of artifacts, which include different sizes of logs believed to be more than 100 years old, from an ancient shipwreck.

Zenaida Bernal, marine program officer of Tanggol Kalikasan-Southern Tagalog, said the pieces of century-old log of still undetermined species and with different sizes were being sold to buyers for P20 to P40 per board foot.

"We were told that some of the old but still usable logs are 26 meters long," Bernal said.

Citing police reports, she said the authorities had already intercepted two jeeploads of century-old logs that were about to be smuggled out of the province to be sold in antique shops in Manila.

Pieces of antique logs command a premium price from rich collectors.

The salvaging of old logs has been going in the parts of Tayabas Bay fronting Unisan, Padre Burgos, General Luna and Pitogo towns, according to Bernal.

She said they were informed by Bantay Kalikasan volunteers in the area that the retrieval of ancient logs had been going on for the past four months.

"However, one of the fishermen volunteered the information that three years ago, his fishing net got stuck at the bottom of the seas. When he dived to retrieve it, he found out that the net was entangled in a big ship anchor lying below and tied into a big piece of wood," Bernal said.

"The fisherman admitted to us that he sold the ancient anchor for an unspecified amount," she said.

The recovery of ancient logs at the bottom of the sea was being manually done.

Armed with iron bars, the fishermen search for logs or whatever valuable items in the sea bed, especially during low tide by sticking the bar in the muddy floor.

Once they hit solid mass, digging comes next.

The diggers breathe through plastic pipes from an air compressor.

The fishermen use several steel drums, which they rent for P150-P200 a day, as floaters for the salvaging of the logs, said Bernal.

Some of the diggers, according to her, were fortunate to salvage ancient China wares and jars in the seas fronting Unisan town.

"The government should look into this ongoing salvaging of ancient relics. They must be preserved by competent people. The artifacts are part of the country's rich culture," she said.

In 2004, a sunken wreck believed to be from the 12th century was discovered 30 meters deep on a muddy bottom in the waters fronting Unisan.

The wreck reportedly yielded pieces of broken jars, plates, and other utensils.

The divers theorized that the vessel sank on its way back to China after trading with the people of Unisan, which used to be called Kalilayan.

Unisan local officials boasted that their town could be the oldest in the country.

They claimed that the town is now 486 years old, having been established in 1521, the same year that Ferdinand Magellan discovered the Philippines. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Foreign mining firms applying for exploration in Negros Oriental

DUMAGUETE CITY—SEVERAL FOREIGN firms have shown interest in conducting mining explorations in Negros Oriental, according to provincial legal officer Erwin Vergara.

Mining firms from Australia, Singapore and China have separately applied for a permit to conduct exploration in Basay, a town about 130 kilometers south of here, he said.

These mining companies, which he declined to identify, would like to look into the gold and copper deposits in Basay.

Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer Charlie Fabre affirmed that a number of foreign companies have filed for exploration permits before the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) regional office based in Cebu.

Vergara said it was possible that other mining firms would also become interested in doing exploration in the towns of Amlan, San Jose, Pamplona and Manjuyod because these localities have deposits of iron ore, sulfur and manganese.

Gov. Emilio Macias II said he would not object to any exploration for as long as these firms would address environmental protection issues.

Vergara noted that mining firms renewed their interest in the Philippines because of the earlier decision of the Supreme Court upholding the constitutionality of the Mining Act of 1995 and the willingness of the Arroyo administration to allow these firms to invest in the country.

The growing demand in the world market of minerals from China and other countries also fueled the interest of mining firms to look for potential mining sites in the Philippines, Vergara said.

Romy G. Amarado, Inquirer Visayas

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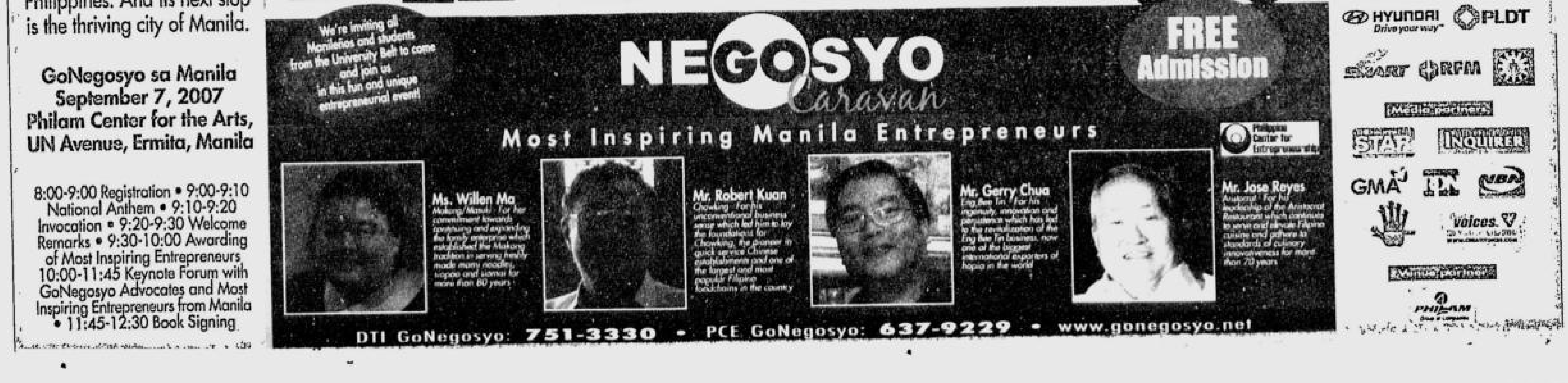

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4 tickets in 4 states win $330-M jackpot

ONE OF THE four winning lottery tickets was sold at this store in the southern town of Villas, New Jersey. AP

From page A1

The odds that any ticket would match all five numbers—8, 18, 22, 40 and 44—and the Mega Ball number—11—drawn on Friday night were one in 176 million.

If estimates of the jackpot hold true, it would be the fourth-largest in the lottery's history. A $363-million jackpot was awarded in 2000 and another $331 million in 2002. In March, two winners shared the record $390-million Mega Millions jackpot.

According to preliminary calculations, each winning ticket in the latest lottery would be worth about $82 million if the prize were taken in 26 annual payments. If taken in one lump sum payment, the payout would be $48,615,188.

Maryland lottery officials delivered a large but fake $330-million check to Walther Liquors on Saturday, and Michael Leggett, son of owners Christine and John Ebmeier, posed with it for photos.

"Business was slammin'" as people bought tickets for Friday's drawing, according to Leggett. He, his girlfriend and his parents sold 875 tickets on Friday, up from an average of about 200.

State Lottery Director Buddy Roogow said whoever bought the winning ticket at Walther Liquors purchased five quick-pick tickets, in which the numbers are automatically selected by computer, costing a total of $5.

"You have a better chance of being hit by lightning at the same place and time every day for a week" than winning Mega Millions, Roogow said.

For selling the winning ticket, Walther Liquors will receive a $25,000 commission.

Virginia's winning ticket was sold at Ducks Corner Food and Gas in Buckingham, a small, close-knit town.

"Everyone is excited," Ducks Corner owner Evelyn Trekas said by telephone. "A lot of people up here don't have a whole lot of money, so I hope it's somebody who can use it and enjoy."

New Jersey's winning ticket was sold at Blitz's Villas Market in the southern town of Villas. "We're just in disbelief right now," said Nick DiRenzo, son of the market's owner.

The winning ticket from Texas was sold at a Kroger store in Houston.

In addition to the grand prize winners, 36 players matched all five numbers but not the Mega Ball number. They will receive second prizes of $250,000 each.

Mega Millions tickets are also sold in California, Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Ohio and Washington. *AP*

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Facts you need to know about breastfeeding.

Breastfeeding is the single most cost-effective measure to prevent child deaths.

Worldwide, scientific experts agree that breastfeeding saves lives.

According to the Lancet Child Survival Series 2003[1], 19% of all underfive deaths worldwide can be prevented through optimal breastfeeding and complementary feeding.

Optimal breastfeeding means:

- initiate breastfeeding within an hour after birth
- exclusive breastfeeding for six months
- continue breastfeeding while giving safe, affordable and indigenous complementary foods, for two years and beyond

In the Philippines, about 82,000 underfive children die every year. Therefore, optimal breastfeeding could prevent 16,000 deaths yearly.

Globally, optimal breastfeeding can prevent 1.3 million child deaths.

[1] The Lancet is the world's leading independent medical journal. Founded 180 years ago, The Lancet is an authoritative voice in global medicine. "Our commitment to international health ensures that research and analysis from all regions of the world is widely covered" (www.thelancet.com/about).

Compared to breastfed children, formula-fed children have increased risks for sickness, death and lower IQ.

Compared to breastfed babies, formula-fed babies have:

- a five-fold risk of diarrhoea[2] and 16.7-fold risk of pneumonia[3] – two of the main causes of deaths among Filipino children
- 40-50% increased risk of developing asthma and wheeze[4]
- IQ 3-7 points lower, up to adulthood[5]

Even in developed countries with good hygiene and clean water, breastfed babies had[6]:

- 50% reduction of acute ear infection
- 64% reduction in the risks of non-specific gastroenteritis
- 72% reduction in the risk of hospitalization due to lower respiratory tract diseases

[2] Popkin BM et al. Breastfeeding and diarrheal morbidity. Pediatrics. 1990 Dec: 86(6): 874-82;

[3] Leon-Cava N. Quantifying the benefits of breastfeeding: A summary of the evidence. Pan American Health Organization: 2002; Edmond KM, Zandoh C, Quigley MA, Pediatrics. 2006: 177:380-384; Cesar JA, Victoria CG, Barros FC et al. Impact of breastfeeding on admission for pneumonia during postneonatal period in Brazil: Nested case-control study. British Medical Journal 1999: 318:1316-20.

[4] Dell S, To T. Breastfeeding and asthma in young children. Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine 2001:155:1261-1265; and, Oddy WH et al. Maternal asthma, infant feeding, and the risk for asthma in childhood. Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology. 2002:110:65-67.

[5] WHO, Evidence on the long-term effects of breastfeeding: systematic reviews and meta-analysis, 2007.

[6] Tufts-New England Medical Center Evidence-Based Practice Center, 2007)

More children in the Philippines should receive the benefits of optimal breastfeeding.

The National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) provides the most accurate means of measuring breastfeeding. In 2003 NDHS[7]:

- 13.5% of infants are never breastfed – making the Philippines the worst compared to 56 countries.
- 54% of women breastfeed within 1 hour of birth. Again, this is one of the lowest breastfeeding initation rates in the world.
- By 4-5 months, only 16% are exclusively breastfed.
- 39% of infants use infant formula in the first year of life. Of these, 28% belong to families living on less than ₱100 a day.

The World Health Assembly recognizes that the marketing of breastmilk substitutes requires special treatment, because of "the vulnerability of infants ... and the risks involved in inappropriate feeding practices"[8].

The Philippines is a member of the World Health Assembly and a signatory of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes.

[7] National Statistics Office (Philippines) and ORC Macro, 2004. National Demographic and Health Survey 2003.

[8] WHO. International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes, 1981.

Department of Health World Health Organization United Nations Children's Fund

No climate change targets at Apec–Howard

From page A1

ing circulated at this week's Apec meeting in Sydney calls on members to voluntarily make "measurable and verifiable contributions to meeting shared global goals," according to a draft obtained by environmental group Greenpeace and seen by The Associated Press.

"What I would like to see the Apec meeting in Sydney do is develop a consensus on the post-Kyoto international framework that attracts participation by all emitters," Howard said, adding that each member country should not be bound by the same restrictions.

"You cannot expect a country like China to accept precisely the same constraints or discipline as a country like Germany or the United Kingdom," he said. "Their economies are at vastly different stages of development, and that has always been the fundamental weakness of the Kyoto approach."

$57.7-M pledge

The prime minister also pledged US$57.7 million to global climate change efforts, including US$12.8 million to a forestry management program backed by China.

Howard's climate change initiative has already drawn protests from environmentalists who say it is an empty strategy designed to protect Australia's coal export industry. Police arrested 11 Greenpeace activists yesterday for painting anti-Apec slogans on a coal ship in the port of Newcastle, 170 kilometers north of Sydney.

Critics also claim that Howard, a former climate change skeptic who is facing a tough reelection campaign, has placed the issue on Apec's agenda to assuage voters' concerns about his environmental credentials. The election will likely be later this year.

A FLAG of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum is displayed at the Apec venue in Sydney. REUTERS

The sprawling Apec region, which includes the world's three biggest emitters of greenhouse gases—China, the United States and Russia—accounts for roughly half of global trade and 56 percent of the world economy.

To support his initiative, Howard released a report by a government research body, the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics, saying Apec economies accounted for 58 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions in 2004. That figure would be 130 percent higher by 2050 if members take no action to cut them, the report said.

More efficient

The report highlighted the potential of new and more efficient technologies to combat climate change, ideas Howard has said should be given more attention.

Separately, senior Apec officials began putting the finishing touches on a declaration on trade and other issues, which will be passed on to government ministers for approval in the middle of the week.

The officials first discussed how to bolster the faltering Doha round of global trade talks, and were then expected to discuss existing barriers to trade and prospects for a region-wide free-trade agreement, Australian officials said.

This year's summit will take place Sept. 8-9 at the Sydney Opera House, overlooking the city's scenic harbor, amid threats of terrorism and violent protests.

'Fortress Sydney'

A massive steel and concrete wall arose around key sections of Australia's largest city—called "Fortress Sydney"—as senior officials put the final touches to preparations for the 21-member Apec summit.

The wall, which snakes through Sydney's tourist center and around harborfront conference venues, is designed to keep protesters at bay and block potential car or truck bombings.

Howard acknowledged yesterday that security and terrorism would be discussed in bilateral meetings.

A strong supporter of the US-led campaign in Iraq, Howard told a news conference this would be the case particularly in his talks with Bush.

Trilateral summit

Australia, the United States and Japan will hold their first trilateral summit on the sidelines of the Apec talks, when Bush and Howard meet with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

The Saturday morning breakfast meeting is expected to focus on security issues and include discussion on North Korea's nuclear disarmament and China's military buildup.

Howard defended the unprecedented level of security in Sydney, saying: "If people didn't threaten violence they wouldn't be necessary."

Apec groups Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, United States and Vietnam. *Reports from AP, AFP*

Choice of costume …

From page A1

tume in a country with no national dress.

Skimpy swimwear, thongs (flip flops) and hats with dangling corks seem out of the question for the likes of New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark and Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

The world is also unlikely to see US President George W. Bush or Russian President Vladimir Putin in the blue singlet and shorts ensemble long favored by millions of working Australian men.

One answer is to focus on Australia's farming heritage and incorporate a broad-brimmed Akubra hat with a long, oilskin Driza-bone coat favored by rugged mountain men in movies such as "The Man from Snowy River."

But hats may obscure the faces of the dignitaries in the all-important summit photograph and the earthy brown coats may look rather dull against the backdrop of Sydney Harbor.

"We really don't have a national costume," said Australian Fashion Week founder Simon Locke.

Akubra hat, Driza-bone

"Certainly there's been iconic pieces of clothing associated with Australia over the years. The obvious ones are the Akubra hat, the Driza-bone and Blunstone boots."

Locke said the importance of Australia's surfwear exports could ensure the presidents and prime ministers attending the forum soon own some impressive beachwear.

"Australia should be projecting an image of itself as cool and contemporary," Locke told Agence France Presse. "So perhaps a pair of Quick Silver board shorts."

Prime Minister John Howard, known for conducting his morning walks in an Australian rugby team jersey, is keeping mum about the outfit except to say it will be "distinctly Australian."

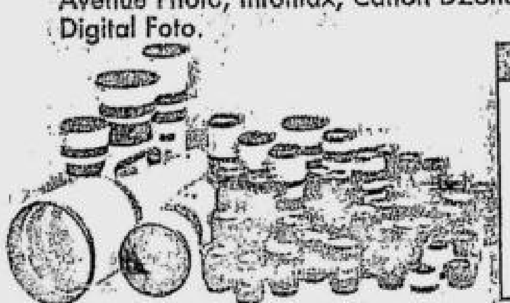
Less elaborate

But consensus is building that the matching outfits will be less elaborate than last year's traditional Vietnamese ao dai, an elegant calf-length silk tunic associated with the country's imperial past.

One Australian official has already said the budget for the outfits is modest.

Whatever the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation leaders are asked to wear, they can blame former US President Bill Clinton who instigated the practice in Seattle in 1993 after a bout of unseasonably cold weather called for warm clothing.

Since then, leaders have donned everything from bright Batik prints in Indonesia, to aviator jackets in Canada to elaborate silk overcoats in South Korea for the group photo. AFP



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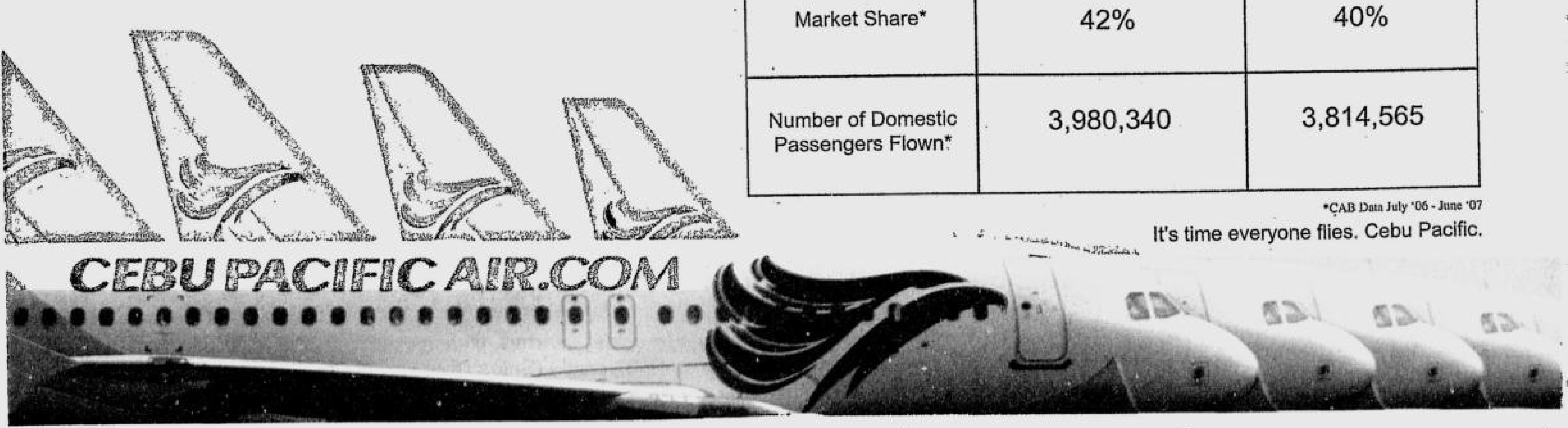

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‘Mother Teresa suffered from silence of God’

MOTHER TERESA REUTERS

From page A1

there was some speculation that the letters could hurt the procedure to make her a saint.

“All believers know about the silence of God,” Benedict said in unprepared remarks. “Even Mother Teresa, with all her charity and force of faith, suffered from the silence of God.”

He said believers sometimes had to withstand the silence of God in order to understand the situation of people who do not believe.

Due out on Sept. 4, the book, “Mother Teresa: Come Be My Light,” is a collection of letters written to colleagues and superiors over 66 years.

The ethnic Albanian nun, who dedicated her life to poor, sick and dying in India, died in 1997 at the age of 87.

Mother Teresa had wanted all her letters destroyed, but the Vatican ordered they be preserved as potential relics of a saint, according to a spokesperson for Doubleday, the US publisher of the book.

Mother Teresa has been beatified but has not yet been made a saint.

Time magazine, which has first serial rights, published excerpts on its website last month.

When the German-born Pontiff visited the former Nazi concentration camp at Auschwitz last year, he publicly asked why God was silent when 1.5 million victims, mostly Jews, died there. *AFP*

Pope urges youth to save planet Earth

From page A1

cranked cell phone recharger.

Benedict told the crowd, camped out under umbrellas and tents on a vast, dusty field on the Adriatic coast, that it was up to them to urgently save the planet from development that had often ignored “nature’s delicate equilibrium.”

“Before it’s too late, we need to make courageous choices that will recreate a strong alliance between man and Earth,” Benedict said in his homily. “We need a decisive ‘yes’ to care for creation and a strong commitment to reverse those trends that risk making the situation of decay irreversible.”

He said water, in particular, was a “precious” resource that needed to be preserved since “it unfortunately becomes a source of strong tensions and conflicts if it isn’t shared in an equitable and peaceful manner.”

Benedict has been on something of a green campaign of late, lamenting just this past week the environmental impact of recent forest fires in Italy and Greece. During his recent summer vacation in the mountains, he spoke frequently about the importance of nature—God’s creation—in rekindling spirituality.

Under Benedict, the Vatican has been taking some concrete steps toward greater environmental sustainability. It has joined a reforestation project aimed at offsetting its carbon dioxide emissions, and has also said it was installing photovoltaic cells on the roof of its main auditorium to convert sunlight into electricity.

An estimated 500,000 people turned out for Benedict’s Mass. Most of the young pilgrims spent the night camped out on tarps and tents on the field down the hill from the Adriatic city of Loreto, home of Italy’s most important shrine dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

As dawn rose over Sunday, the field appeared to be a great multicolored mosaic, with participants donning the brightly colored hats provided by organizers to shade them from the blistering sun.

Crisis in family

On Saturday, Benedict told the young pilgrims he was praying a crisis in traditional family values doesn’t become an irreversible failure, urging them to have faith that they can succeed in marriage even though so many others had failed.

“There is so much failure of love all around us,” he said. “How many couples don’t succeed and separate? How many families end up in pieces? How many young people, even among you, have seen their parents separate and divorce?”

After hearing young people’s stories about their broken homes and living on the periphery of society, he assured them that he and the entire Roman Catholic Church were praying “that the crisis that is affecting families today doesn’t become an irreversible failure.”

Benedict has frequently decried the collapse of family values and has spoken of the need to support “traditional” marriage between man and woman. The Italian bishops conference—which organized the rally—has mounted a major campaign to support traditional families and oppose proposed Italian legislation giving same-sex couples several legal rights.

The Pope told the crowd to have faith that God would help them, even though they may ask themselves how they could succeed in marriage where their friends and families had failed.

Role of youth

“Do not be afraid,” he said, repeating a phrase often used by Pope John Paul II.

As the sun set on the crowd gathered in a field in front of him, Benedict told attendees: “It is the role of youth to change the world.”

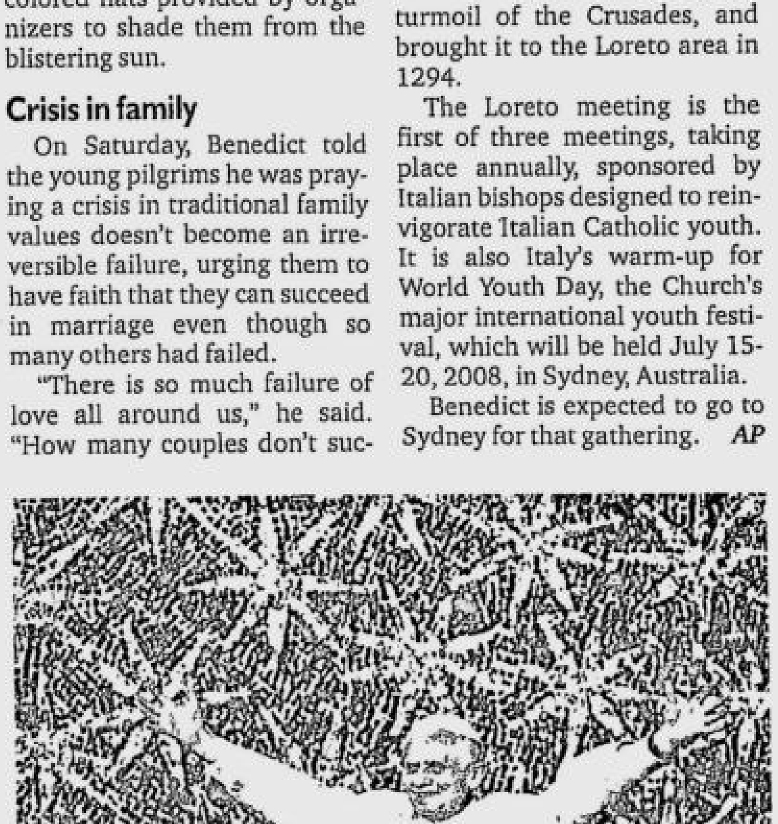
At the Pope’s side was Fr. Giancarlo Bossi, the priest who survived more than a month in the hands of bandits in the Philippines. Blind opera singer Andrea Bocelli was also in attendance, performing Ave Maria.

After speaking to the crowd, Benedict went to pray before the shrine of the Virgin Mary, known as the Holy House.

The shrine is a simple stone cottage that Catholic tradition says was the home in Nazareth where Mary grew up and received the annunciation that she would bear Jesus. Legend has it that angels miraculously transported the structure from the Holy Land, where it had come under threat during the turmoil of the Crusades, and brought it to the Loreto area in 1294.

The Loreto meeting is the first of three meetings, taking place annually, sponsored by Italian bishops designed to reinvigorate Italian Catholic youth. It is also Italy’s warm-up for World Youth Day, the Church’s major international youth festival, which will be held July 15-20, 2008, in Sydney, Australia.

Benedict is expected to go to Sydney for that gathering. *AP*


POPE BENEDICT XVI urges an international rally of youths to “change the world” through love and protect the environment. AFP

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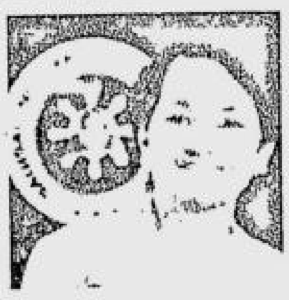

Warmest congratulations to all officials and personnel of the Bureau of Immigration (BI) on your celebration of the BI's 67th Founding Anniversary.

In this year's commemoration, I commend the Bureau for its gains in the first half of 2007 marked by initiatives and interventions that are shaping up under the **Government Migration Agenda (GMA)**. Along this thrust, your agency leadership has embraced sovereignty as its main advocacy, its *raison d'etre*.

Indeed, such a policy direction reaffirms the BI's role as the "hammer and shield" of the republic. After all, for what does the Republic exist if the Filipinos are not secure even in their own native land? For what are trade and investments if the Filipinos are deprived of jobs and gainful employment right in our very shores? For what is economic development if its sustainability is threatened by the entry of terrorists, fugitives from justice, convicted felons, economic saboteurs and other criminals? And, for what is the country's prosperity if its laws and institutions are not respected, honored or recognized by other sovereign equals?

May the qualities of integrity, competence and dedication that are in each good man and woman of the BI brings about good governance, pursued along our vision and mission of a Strong Republic. If only for this, your celebration this year would have found its meaning.

Again, my warmest congratulations on your anniversary.

Gloria Arroyo

- GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President, Republic of the Philippines

I congratulate the men and women of the Bureau of Immigration (BI) on the occasion of the Bureau's 67th Founding Anniversary.

The world is constantly threatened by the evils of terrorism, transnational crimes and international crime syndicates. Every nation therefore, is summoned to marshal its resources at hand as we too, continue to bolster our capabilities by building alliances, establishing networks and invoking our laws and institutions in order to craft a pro-development agenda.

The BI has its hands full in monitoring and preventing the entry of fugitives from justice, convicted felons, undesirable aliens and terrorists. To do this, it has to devise new schemes to outwit and outsmart lawless elements who are forever challenging the ingenuity of immigration officers.

Continue the good work and Godspeed to the new BI administration.

RAUL GONZALEZ
Justice Secretary

Greetings of sovereignty, peace and prosperity!

I express the collective sense of the men and women of the Bureau of Immigration (BI) on the occasion of our observance of the 67th Founding Anniversary of the Bureau.

Under my watch, the BI shall be pursuing a Government Migration Agenda (GMA) that envisions a sovereign Philippines that is proud of its heritage, secures its national integrity, pursues inter-faith harmony, and promotes global peace and economic prosperity under a regime of a just and terror-free society.

We shall therefore seek to administer a development-oriented migration agenda, where nationals are open to new partnerships, and aliens are willing to embrace new systems, with both espousing the advocacy of a just and humane society, as well as a progressive economy. In all our actions, we shall be giving due regard to ethnic sensitivity and be cognizant of the needs of the present while securing the interest of the future.

We shall not waver to serve the requirement of tourism, trade and investments yet we shall, at all times, uphold or sovereignty to protect and secure our laws and institutions.

In fine, we shall endeavor to pursue a sovereignty-inspired economy.

And, this, we ask our publics: Please help us serve your better. As Henry Ford put it, "Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; Working together is success.

Again, my warm greetings to all!

MARCELINO C. LIBANAN
Commissioner

Forging Ahead... Amidst Challenges

Bureau of Immigration Celebrates 67th year

BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION

> "As modernization takes center stage, the BI is poised to face the threefold challenge of being an economic catalyst, an ambassador of goodwill and vanguard against international terrorists/ threats."

Under the strong and able stewardship of Marcelino "Nonoy" Libanan the Bureau of Immigration is taking giant strides in its quest to be a first class, dynamic and responsive government agency. In the first semester of the year the bureau surpassed its collection target by 19%, generating an income of P969.75 million, as against the target of only P814.15 million or an excess P155.60 million.

The agency's take is also 12% higher than the collection of P866.43 million for the same period last year. It is worthy to note, that during the months of May to July when Libanan held office, the bureau registered 14%, 31% and an astounding 68 % (respectively) over-collection vis-à-vis the bureau's targets.

Libanan credits the cooperative and hardworking men and women of the bureau on this dramatic turn-around. He also attributed the improved collection to the increasing influx of foreigners (tourist and businessmen) into the country. "That's a testament to the economy's vibrancy" he said pointing to the 6.9% GDP growth in the first quarter.

Long road to modernization

Everything starts with a dream, a wise man said. So it is at the Bureau of Immigration. The dream, as Commissioner Marcelino Libanan sees it, is to make the bureau an effective instrument in the protection of the country's sovereignty as it promotes economic prosperity amidst peace and harmony.

This is no pipe dream, stressed Commissioner Libanan, who is hard at work with his former colleagues in Congress to pass a legislation that will transform the bureau into a modern organization truly capable of carrying out its mandate in a changed environment.

"The bureau has been sleeping since 1940," Libanan said. The year 1940, or 60 years ago, was when BI was created during the commonwealth with the Philippine Immigration Act.

Cavite congressman Boying Remulla is sponsoring the proposed new Philippine Immigration Act in the House of Representatives. Libanan, who was the lone Eastern Samar congressman, successfully shepherded many vital legislations in the 12th and 13th Congress, will backstop Remulla, thus giving the bill more than a fair chance of hurdling the legislative bill.

From a bureau into a commission

The bill seeks to upgrade the BI into a commission under the Office of the President, no longer just a bureau under the Department of Justice.

In other progressive country's, immigration affairs are handled by a department, like in Australia where 7,000 employees and over 1,000 computers can be harnessed any time to cope with problems regarding aliens. Here, BI which is charged with monitoring moving and highly dynamic subjects spread all over the many islands in the archipelago, has only 997 employees, compared with the 7,000 of the Bureau of Customs, which handles only inert cargoes.

Libanan admits BI is hard put to man the international ports in Laoag, Subic, Clark, Davao, Cebu, Aklan, Zamboanga, and soon, Iloilo. A looming headache for the bureau is Naia Terminal3 when its finally open for business as much more foreigners are expected to pass through this port which a much bigger capacity.

Because of the limited resources of the bureau, the BI has embarked

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ACR I-CARD PROJECT:

Shift to customer service orientation nets P348 M

Part of the Bureau of Immigration's success in its positive collection performance is credited to the modernization undertaken by the Alien Registration Division (ARD) which is actually the nerve center of the bureau.

Chief Danilo C. Almeda, head of the ARD said the BI is at the forefront of implementing the ACR I-Card BOT Project that automates the entire process of alien registration and integrates the issuance of various paper-based alien documentations into a microchip-based identification card called the ACR I-Card.

With the implementation of the ACR I-Card project, Almeda enthused, the BI was able to generate some P348 million of which 50% or P174 million already went to the national coffers and the other 50% retained by the bureau

The ACR I-Card Project automates the registration process and integrates the issuance of various paper-based alien documentations into a microchip based identification card, resulting in: governmental efficiency, improved level of services to the alien population, eliminate harassment of aliens, and increased revenues for the government.

Almeda said, the ACR I-Card Project is part of the reforms in the immigration system of the Philippines as the country adjusts to the threats of international terrorism and transnational crimes. According to him, the project enhances the capability of the BI against international terrorism, transnational crimes and international drug trafficking by advancing its capability to identify and track resident aliens through a microchip based identity card with biometric technology features.

The ACR I-Card is a microchip-based credit card-sized identification issued to registered alien replacing the paper based ACR. It is a fraud and tamper-proof card with biometric security features capable of data management that can be updated electronically.

The project eliminates fraud in all aspects of alien registration and monitoring; drastically improves immigration process time for registered aliens; upgrades the level of services to the country's resident alien population; and improves our internal governance by eliminating fixers and illegal personnel issuing falsified documents.

Almeda added, the alien community is able to enjoy substantial upgrading of services, and able to realize convenience and facilitated transactions while addressing the issue of affordability:

Every current holder or applicant of an Alien Certificate of Registration is issued an ACR I-Card, in which the photograph, fingerprint and other relevant information have been previously stored. The ACR I-Card holder upon arrival or departure is processed through a special immigration counter.

The ACR I-Card Courtesy Lane, features a biometric card reader device that verifies an alien's identity thru one-to-one matching of the fingerprint template in the ACR I-Card with a live scan fingerprint.

The ACR I-Card offers convenience to the ACR holder:

a) They are provided special immigration counters at the ports of entry and exits without going through the regular immigration control lines, with a maximum time of 10 seconds for the verification process.
b) They are assured that they are holding a genuinely issued ACR document.
c) They receive faster and more efficient service in all ACR related transactions at

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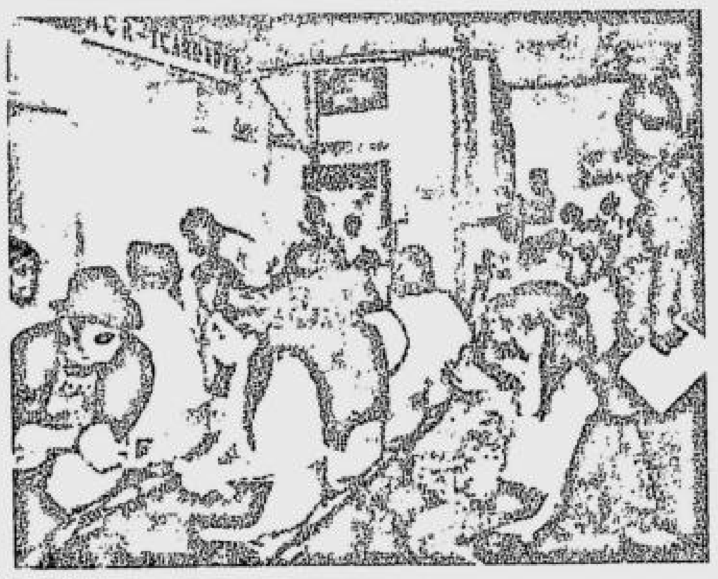
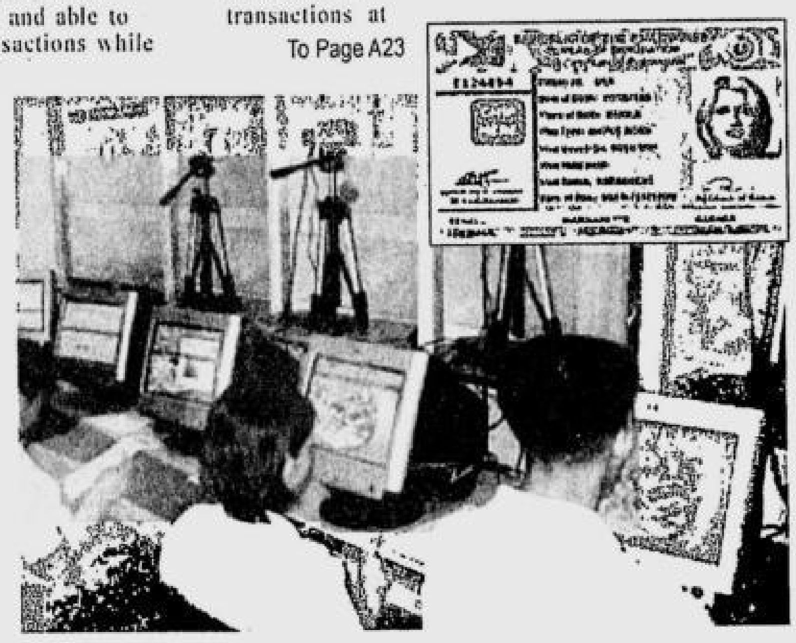
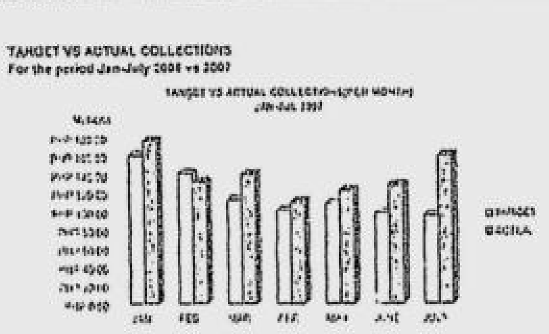


> "*ACR I-Card Project* automates the entire process of alien registration and integrates the issuance of various paper-based alien documentations into a microchip-based identification card."



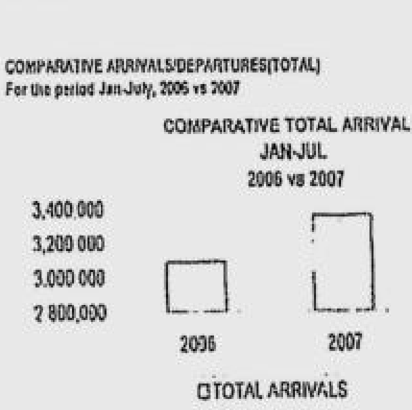
TARGET VS ACTUAL COLLECTIONS
For the period Jan-July 2006 vs 2007



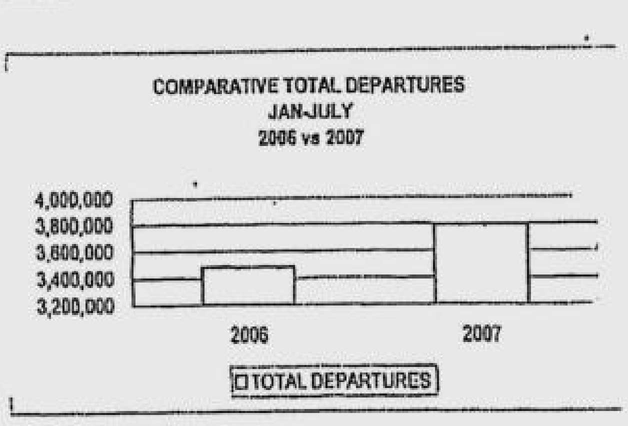
	2007		*EXCESS (DEFICIT)	*%
	TARGET	ACTUAL		
JAN	PHP 151 705 333.00	PHP [illegible]	PHP [illegible]	10%
FEB	143 341 [illegible]	131 [illegible] 345.00	[illegible]	[illegible]
MAR	112 883 333.00	139 456 374.75	27 [illegible]	24%
APR	100 883 333.00	1?0 150 621.27	9 33? 2?1.27	9%
MAY	[illegible]	127 525 357.[illegible]	15 247 [illegible]	14%
JUNE	98 [illegible]	[illegible]	30 [illegible]	31%
JULY	85 769 [illegible]	[illegible]	54 8?? 266.49	68%
TOTAL	PHP 814 [illegible]	PHP 969 750 3[illegible]	PHP 155 599 [illegible]	19%

* OVER TARGET

COMPARATIVE ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES(TOTAL)
For the period Jan-July, 2006 vs 2007



	JAN-JUL		INCREASE (DECREASE)	% INC/DEC
	2006	2007		
TOTAL ARRIVALS	3,087,583	3,356,823	269,240	9%



	JAN-JULY		INCREASE (DECREASE)	% INC/DEC
	2006	2007		
TOTAL DEPARTURES	3,478,431	3,787,022	308,591	9%

A one-on-one with Commissioner Libanan

Question (Q) : What is your vision for the Bureau of Immigration?

Commissioner Marcelino C. Libanan (MCL): We envision a sovereign Philippines, that is proud of its heritage, secures its national integrity, promotes inter faith, harmony, and installs a regime ofglobal peace and economic prosperity in a just and terror -- free society.

Towards this end, we also envision a corps of dedicated public servants who find significance because of their calling, gain relevance because of their personal goals, and derive satisfaction from the quality of service that they deliver.

Q: And what is your mission for the BI?

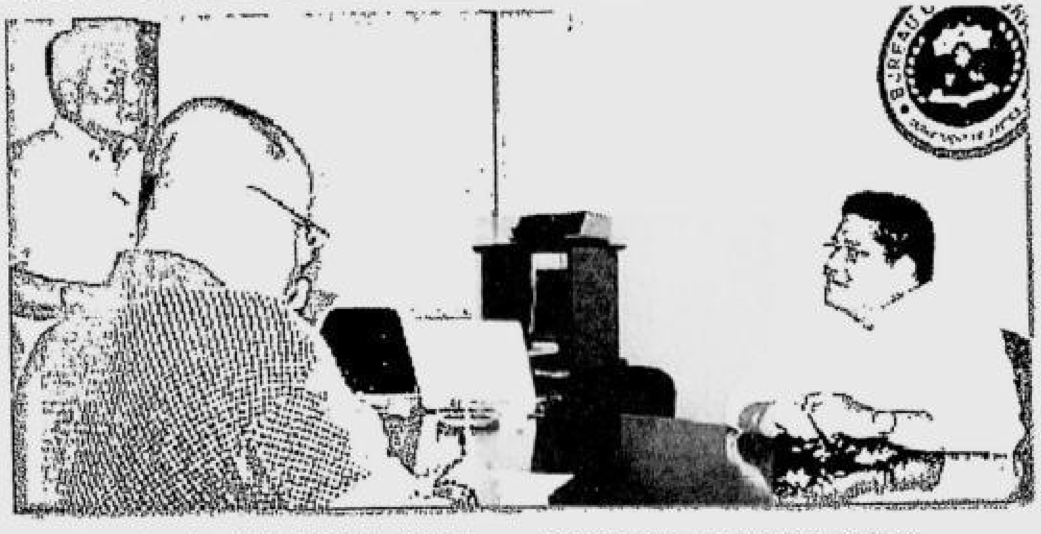
MCL: My mission is to administer a dynamic and progressive migration agenda, where nationals are open to new partnerships while aliens are willing to embrace new systems with both espousing the advocacy of a just, humane and pro development society.

Q: What will it take to achieve those Vision and Mission?

MCL: First and foremost, we shall uphold our sovereignty at all times. As such, we shall ensure that (a) our national integrity is secured: (b) our migration services are humane, pro - development aswell as pro - family: (c) our national development is adequately and responsibly served by our migration policies: and (d) that the Philippines' standing in the family of nations is recognized, respected and honored under the internationally recognized principle of reciprocity.

Q: What are the Key Result Areas (KRAs) that you would like the BI to pursue under your watch?

MCL: National Security, Progressive Economy, Sanctity of the family. To pursue these, I shall endeavor to equip the Bureau with the needed wherewithal, like a responsive organizational structure, a motivated work force, systems modernizations thru ICT - based operations, alliance - building and networking, all geared towards ensuring our national security, facilitating global trade for our economy, and upholding that



sanctity and unity of the Filipino family.

Q: What is your agency's role in the implementation of the Human Security Act?

MCL: Under the law, BI is mandated to assume a supporting role. As the gatekeeper of the nation, BI shall see to it that only those with noble intentions shall be allowed entry. But, once access is granted to these well intentioned foreigners, we shall make sure that the world - famous Filipino hospitality is extended regardless of race, faith, and gender. But, here's a caveat: Let us be hospitable, but we must be vigilant as a people.

> Q: And what is your mission for the BI?
>
> MCL: My mission is to administer a dynamic and progressive migration agenda, where nationals are open to new partnerships while aliens are willing to embrace new systems with both espousing the advocacy of a just, humane and pro development society.

In other words, we shall be supportive to investors, accommodating to tourists and understanding to foreigners who have Filipino spouses and children: but, we shall never waver in our commitment to flush out terrorists, deport fugitives of other countries, and exclude aliens who are likely to become public charge.

Q: Is revenue generation not among your mandate?

MCL: Essentially, revenue generation is not our core competencies. But there is nothing that will prevent us from pursuing this area, especially in the light of the government's priorities. Using the first half performance as indicator, the BI will surely surpass its target by leaps and bounds. We hope to meet the target for the whole year by October. In other words, it's hitting 12 in 10.

Q: During previous leaderships of the Bureau, Alien Social Integration initiatives were pursued. Do you have any similar plans during your watch?

MCL: We are looking at that direction. But, I would like to give premium to mainstreaming interventions. If we finally push thru with a new round of social integration program for Aliens, I shall make sure that it addresses matters beyond the granting of recognition, beyond legalization of stay, beyond issuance of I -- Card. That integration program must make sure that the aliens will mainstream themselves to the Filipino society; and there are plenty of these activities.

Q: How do you plan to change the negative image of the Bureau of Immigration?

MCL: I am believer in the goodness of people. If I have to change the image of the Bureau I shall start with its people consult them, discuss with them, and agree on things that we need to change. Changing people without changing the system will not work. Changing systems without consulting the people will not necessarily effect the needed change. Sans that needed change will not give us a positive image. In other words, our people should be at the fulcrum of our reform agenda.

A DEDICATED AND EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP IS CAUSING...

Good Governance at the bureau

The impossible is happening in the Bureau of Immigration. After several failed attempts in the past, graft is dwindling, slowly but surely, in what a newspaper columnist described as a 'meltdown' in the agency.

Immigration Commissioner Marcelino Libanan, who had hardly warmed his seat in the bureau, was immediately confronted by charges of harassment and extortion against some BI personnel he hardly knew. This necessitated him to have a direct hand, making swift and resolute steps to eradicate what seems to be an age-old problem that defies solution.

Libanan, three months in the job now, punctuated his public statement against the wrongdoings in the bureau by dismissing five BI personnel.

The youngest immigration commissioner met the bureau's senior officials and rank and file leaders and together they crafted a blueprint for good governance at the bureau. They knew that they face a tough task and a difficult challenge, but with resolute determination and a painful load of political will, they said they are ready to chip and whittle away this big stumbling block in good governance.

One cornerstone of BI's campaign against corruption is liberalization. The bureau's leadership realized that erring BI personnel use the stiff regulations to shake down delinquent aliens who are vulnerable to "areglo."

In short, the bureau now makes it easy for foreigners to stay here as it takes away the alibi for mulcters to harass and demand money. In the process, the government earns more revenues from more registration.

Creation of a new division

This program is complemented by the creation of a new law enforcement division (LED) to effect the arrest of illegal aliens stubbornly refusing to obey our immigration laws. This unit will complement the BI intelligence unit which gathers information about aliens.

The intelligence unit can now concentrate in gathering evidences and documents so that their cases against illegals will be air-tight and will stand the scrutiny of the courts while the LED will be trained and equipped with the proper tools for apprehension and law enforcement. Libanan said the LED, basically, will carry out the police function of the bureau.

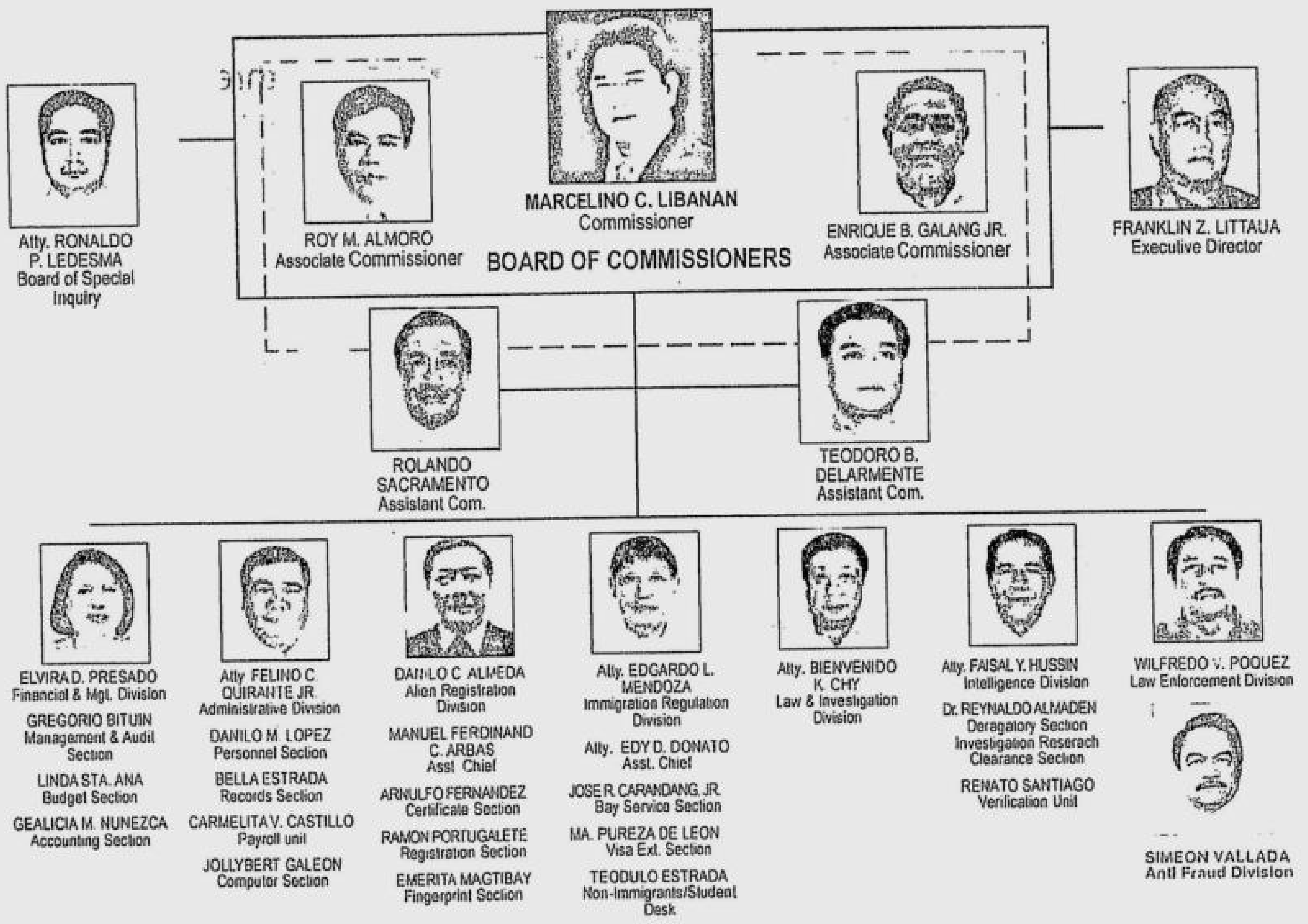
Alien friendly bureau

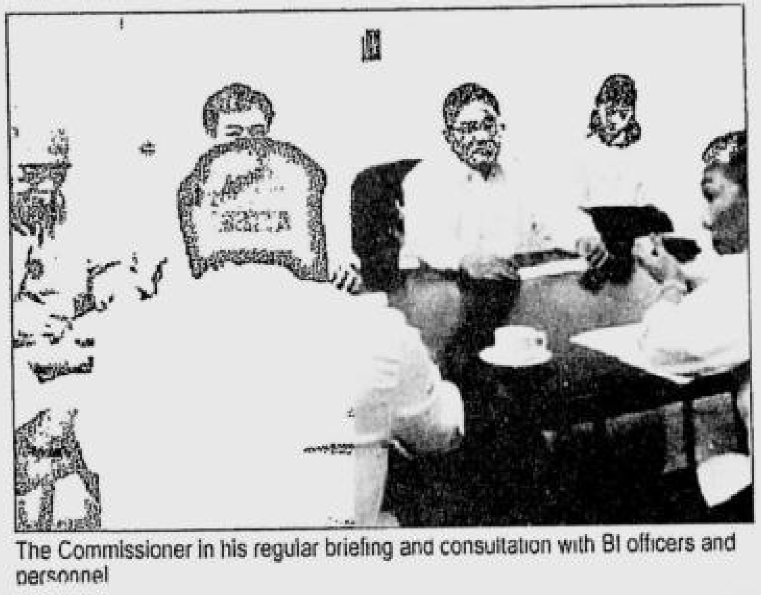
Everything now depicts an alien- friendly bureau. Recently, the bureau initiated a program for investors so that they need get a visa before coming over. Visas can now be given to foreign investors upon their arrival and they can stay legitimately for 30 days.

The program covers special investor's resident visa, which is processed by the Board of Investments, the special retiree's resident visa, which is issued by the Philippine Retirement Authority; and the pre-arranged employment visa for expatriate workers, which is obtained from BI.

"Foreign businessmen invited by the President in her trips abroad can also avail of the program," Libanan said. But perhaps the biggest cure to graft in the bureau is a good dose of transparency.

The commissioner knows the fight against corruption is long, but he hopes to make a big dent, at least, if not get rid of it completely, when his watch is over.





The Commissioner in his regular briefing and consultation with BI officers and personnel

Bureau's Exemplars of Service: Providing leadership and inspiration to fellow workers

Commissioner Libanan easily credits the turn-around of the bureau to the men and women of the bureau whose industry, hardwork and dedication is slowly making the BI into a first class, customer oriented government office away from its graft-ridden image of old.

"I am inspired by our own people who long for change so they can have honor and respect in their work," Libanan said. For their services to the public and their contribution to the bureau, Libanan said the BI hierarchy is giving the bureau's movers and shakers their due recognition to serve as inspiration for them to strive harder and for others to emulate their example

For this year'- anniversary, Danilo Lopez, a member of the program on awards and incentives for service excellence (PRAISE) committee and personnel officer, said the selected Model Employees, exemplified the highest sense of professionalism, dedication to their work, honesty, integrity and have contributed immensely to the improvement, effectiveness and efficiency of the bureau.

Chosen as model employees or crème-dela-crème among the employees are: Adela C. Cantal, Arnulfo P. Fernandez, and Linda Sta. Ana (Supervisor's Category): Mita Chuvy A. Arguelles, Florentino G. Diputado, and Antonio Prieto (Alien Control Officer's Category), Reynaldo C. Calinog, Mariquita C. Cuaton, Corazon N. Lawig, and Ronald S. Nebre (Rank and File Category).

A posthumous award will also be conferred to Eduardo A. Magtibay.

Likewise, the BI will also be giving loyalty awards to officials and employees with continuous and satisfactory service in the government and has no pending cases. A gold service award will be given to Arnulfo P. Fernandez for his 35 years, sterling and spotless service to the BI. Attorney Marcela P. Malaluan will get a silver service award for her 25 years of hardwork while Oscar P Castro will be given a bronze service award for his 15 years dedicated service. Special awards will also be given to the Australian Embassy, European Embassy and the International Organization for Migration for their invaluable support and cooperation to the bureau.

Libanan said that he takes pride in working and serving with the bureau's personnel because they have shown that they are equal if not above the challenge of change and can ignore selfish interest for the sake of providing the public the best service, in effect, raising the bar of standards at the bureau.

The commissioner is gratified that BID personnel is now in high morale, which many attribute to his close rapport with them, as well as confidence resulting from the changing public perception. That, the commissioner said, is more than enough reward for his efforts, when mentioned that he deserves an award as well.

Forging Ahead... From Page A22

on alliance-building with domestic and overseas police organizations, local schools, foreign embassies and international trade Chambers. The tie-ups will only tighten up monitoring of aliens, especially the undesirable, but will also make the stay of the foreign visitors more pleasant, free from harassment.

Right now, BI has only a yearly budget of P300 million. But its responsibility is much bigger, like raising P1.4 billion in revenues to help fill-up the national coffers. Some observers are simply amazed that the bureau can still carry out its functions despite this big handicap in finances. The proposed new immigration law will help correct the situation because it seeks to allow the BI to retain 20 percent of its revenues for its continuing modernization and expansion programs

BI also plans to set up 50 additional offices in regions and provinces where there are concentrations of foreigners. Libanan also hinted the need for at least five immigration attaches in countries which many of their nationals come in.

"As modernization takes center stage, the BI is poised to face the threefold challenge of being an economic catalyst, an ambassador of goodwill and vanguard against international terrorists/threats." Libanan said.

An immigration academy.

Despite the meager resources, the new commissioner is unfazed, coming up with projects like the immigration academy in Subic, which he said, cannot be done away with. The academy is the anchor of the bureau's human development program, which hopes to make BI personnel better public servants.

The academy teaches social graces to produce polite and other people- sensitive employees. It also trains the personnel in modern detection, investigations, and other law enforcement skills, like knowing forged documents. It is hoped that the academy will engender a work ethic that will replace the culture of corruption in government bureaucracy.

Libanan realizes he might just have three years until 2010 when a new President is elected, and possibly a new BI commissioner is appointed. But by this time, he would have left a legacy- "a transparent professional and efficient BI."

BI has taken half steps in its long journey in the history of local bureaucracy. Now, with a man at the helm who dares to make changes, the bureau is ready to make a great leap forward.

ACR I-CARD PROJECT From Page A22

the Bureau of Immigration.

d) Provides convenience with the tamper proof and fraud-proof credit card-sized ACR I-Card

e) Eliminates paper-based ACR/ICR/CRTV/ CRTT/ CRTS/CRPE, ECC, SRC and Re-entry Permit.

f) Eliminates illegal and unwarranted detention of legal alien residents. The implementation of the ACR I-Card project will prevent and eliminate instances where aliens are indiscriminately accosted, harassed and detained on mere suspicion of possessing fake or fraudulent ACR documents.

g) In the long run, it decreases the cost of transacting business with the Bureau of Immigration because the process will eliminate fixers, illegal middlemen and illegal syndicates issuing fake documents.

Almeda also said the Alien Registration Division is now transformed into a customer focused, client friendly, service oriented unit of the Bureau of Immigration.

With the guidance of Commissioner Libanan, the ARD implemented a new culture and behavior standards among the employees that are geared towards public service. In fact, he said, they have adopted the private sector orientation of "customer satisfaction" and "customer service" in their dealings with the alien community.

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Suspected hazing victim laid to rest

Family still waiting for results of NBI probe, says relative

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.

ALMOST A WEEK AFTER HIS PALE AND UNRESponsive body was taken to a hospital in Quezon City, Cris Anthony Mendez, a University of the Philippines student believed to have died of hazing injuries, was buried at the public cemetery in Tiaong, Quezon, his hometown, yesterday afternoon.

A crowd of close to 2,000 people, mostly students and teachers who came all the way from UP Diliman, villagers, local officials and Mendez's family and relatives, attended the funeral of the 20-year-old public administration student.

For two hours, they marched under the scorching heat on the Maharlika Highway as they accompanied the victim to his final resting place.

"Cris' death could be a message from God. The Lord wants us to realize that human life is so precious. Life is full of meaning. Man's life is not measured by the length of time that he stayed here on earth but by how he spent it when he was still alive," Fr. Noel Cabungcal said in his homily.

Cabungcal, the parish priest of the Blessed Virgin Mary-Queen of the World church in Lusacan village, urged the victim's family and friends to "leave everything to God."

"Hopefully, those who committed the crime would be bothered by their conscience," said lawyer Expectacion Bladeo, who represents the Mendez family.

She expressed concern, however, that those involved in his death were apparently orchestrating a cover-up to mislead investigators.

"How come his death certificate stated that he died here in Tiaong," Bladeo said.

Mendez was declared dead on arrival at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center by doctors who examined him after he was brought in by Dr. Francisco Cruz Jr. at a few minutes past 1 a.m. last Monday.

Cruz, a VMMC doctor who has not reported for work since then, expressed willingness the other day to talk to the police about what he knows about Mendez's death.

According to the hospital emergency room report obtained by the INQUIRER, Mendez was a mauling victim. The report took note of the bruises on the back of his arms and thighs.

Top UP officials last week condemned his death and vowed to conduct an investigation into the matter. They also placed under preventive suspension all officers of the Sigma Rho fraternity, the group Mendez was believed to have joined before his death.

The victim's family, however, was reportedly skeptical of reports that he died due to hazing.

Barangay chair Pedro Panopio, a relative, said they were not yet ready to believe that Mendez was a hazing victim.

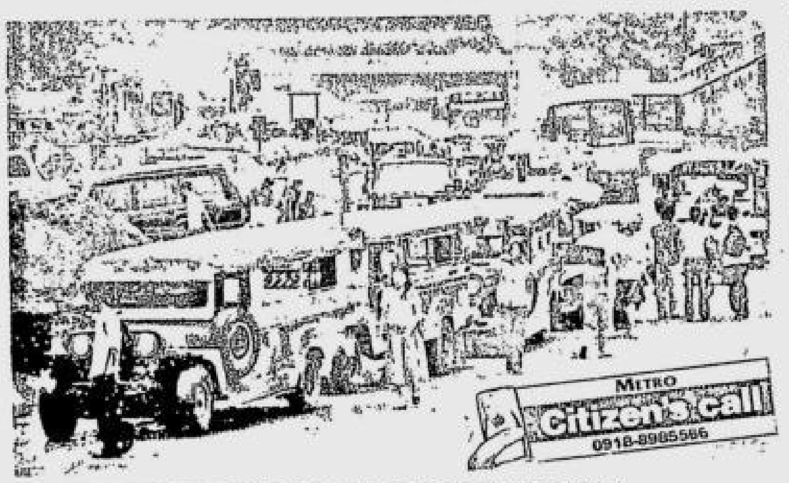
"We're still facing a blank wall as to the true cause of his death. We're still waiting for the result of the initial investigation by the National Bureau of Investigation. The NBI people told us that they would invite some people in the next few days who could help shed some light on the incident," Panopio told the INQUIRER.

Mendez's mother, Cristina, and his younger brother, Renz, refused to talk to the media.

Meanwhile, officials of the UP National College of Public Administration and Governance are considering renaming the college student council office after Mendez.

"We want to honor Cris, who served the NCPAG Student Council," UP NCPAG Dean Alex Brillantes Jr. told the INQUIRER.

THE MOTHER of UP student Cris Anthony Mendez is unable to hold back her tears as she says goodbye to him before his burial yesterday at the public cemetery in Tiaong, Quezon. Mendez's white coffin is adorned by the nearly 30 medals he earned over the years (inset). DELFIN T. MALLARI JR.



TRAFFIC NIGHTMARE AT TANDANG SORA

Bob, 42, of Quezon City sent this text message to Citizen's Call: "Tandang Sora Avenue leading to Commonwealth Avenue (Don Mariano Marcos Avenue) has become a traffic nightmare because of jeepney and tricycle drivers who have turned both outer lanes of the road into terminals and pick up points despite numerous No Parking and No Loading/Unloading signs. Worse, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority aides just ignore this root cause of traffic problems. Isn't it obvious?" RYAN LIM

No access to fire trucks

IN BARANGAY Tandang Sora, there are subdivisions that have fenced off their entrance interconnecting the streets, for one reason or another. In case of a fire in the area, fire trucks would be prevented from responding immediately, not knowing where to pass. Perhaps the Office of the Quezon City Mayor or the City Engineer's Office can find a solution to this problem in accordance with existing ordinances.

RAMON ZAMUCO JR.,
Delta Village, Quezon City

Flooding on Medina Street

MADALAS lubog sa baha ang Medina Street sa Pio del Pilar sa panahon ng tag-ulan. Gabaywang hanggang dibdib ang lalim ng tubig, parang dagat-dagatan tuloy. Sana magawan ito ng paraan ng MMDA. (Medina Street in Pio del Pilar, Makati City is always flooded during the rainy season, with waters reaching waist to chest level in the deepest portions. Can the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority do anything about this problem?)

ESTHER PARAISO, 18,
Pio del Pilar, Makati City

Polluter on wheels

I WOULD like to call the attention of the agency concerned regarding this smoke belcher of a school bus (TWW 301) servicing Miriam College and Ateneo University students.

JASMINE ABELLA-BAUTISTA, 37,
Camarin, Caloocan City

Action please, Mayor Ilagan!

ATTENTION, (Cainta) Mayor Mon Ilagan! Please focus your attention on Brookside Hills, a village fast deteriorating because of floods and damaged roads. Action please!

MR. LORENZANA, Cainta

3 hurt in Mandaluyong hardware store fire

By Kristine L. Alave

THREE PEOPLE WERE HURT when a hardware shop in Mandaluyong City burned down yesterday morning. Authorities identified the victims as Pin Khang, 42; his relative, Raymond Khang, 15 and Andrea Arevalo.

Doctors treated the elder Khang for second degree burns, Raymond for smoke inhalation and Arevalo for an injured hand. Two other members of the Khang family were unhurt.

F02 Marcus Cabiso said the fire which hit Sonic Construction and Hardware Supplies on Shaw Boulevard started at around 3 a.m. The Khang family, which owns the store and lives in the building, said they were awakened by the smell of smoke.

The fire reached the second alarm and was placed under control at 3:40 a.m., Cabiso added.

Investigators have yet to determine the cause of the fire which rapidly spread throughout the building. Authorities estimated the damage to property at around P1.5 million.

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Binay backs calls to postpone local polls

Suggests that mayors appoint barangay, SK officials instead

By DJ Yap

MAKATI MAYOR JEJOMAR Binay yesterday expressed support for a proposal to postpone the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections next month, citing inadequate funds for the conduct of the polls.

The best thing to do now, he said, was to allow the incumbent mayors to simply appoint the barangay and SK chairs themselves.

"This way, we will be able to ensure cooperation and teamwork among the mayors and the barangay officials," Binay added.

Cost-cutting measure

According to him, authorizing the mayors to appoint the barangay leaders would help do away with "too much and unnecessary politics in the grassroots level, as well as save on election expenses."

"The growing clamor from local officials and legislators to reset the elections is well-founded and sensible, given the issues raised about inadequate funds and the lack of readiness on the part of the Commission on Elections to conduct the polls so soon after the May elections," Binay said.

But the mayor, who is also president of the United Opposition, cautioned: "However, I hope this move will not be manipulated by administration allies to push their plans for a referendum on Charter change."

Comelec should foot bill

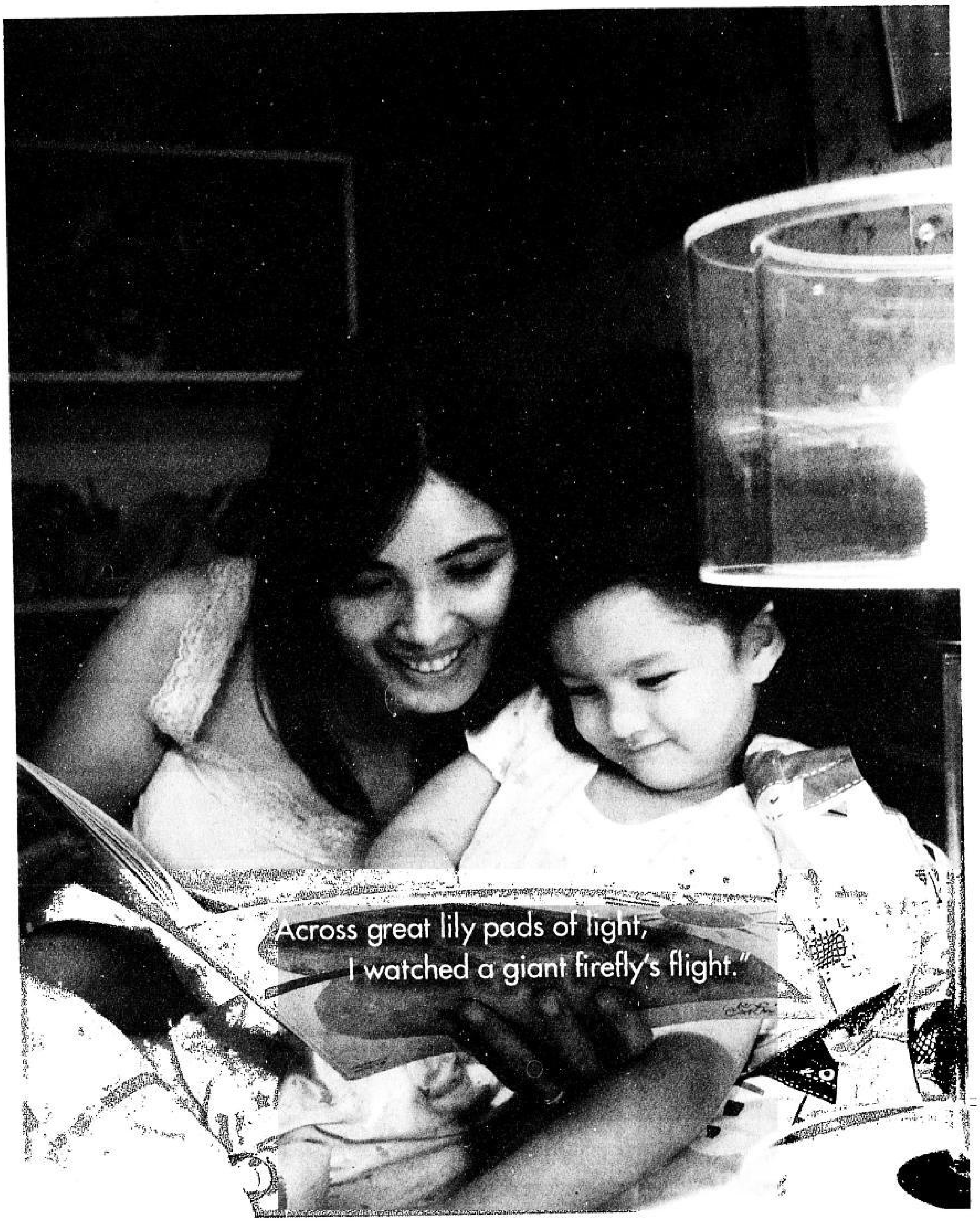
Earlier, he also objected to a Comelec resolution requiring local government units to shoulder 25 percent of the expenses for the October elections and insisted that under the law, the Comelec should foot the bill.

"Besides, some LGUs are already hard-pressed just meeting their payroll requirements, so how can they afford to share (part of their) budget for the elections?" Binay said.

DID YOU KNOW

ALTHOUGH it opened with only 300 beds, the Philippine General Hospital, which is celebrating its centennial, now has a bed capacity of 1,500. One thousand of these are charity units or for indigents, and the rest are pay and special units. The hospital occupies 10 hectares of land on Taft Avenue, Manila and has 45 buildings, 19 clinical departments and about 4,000 employees.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research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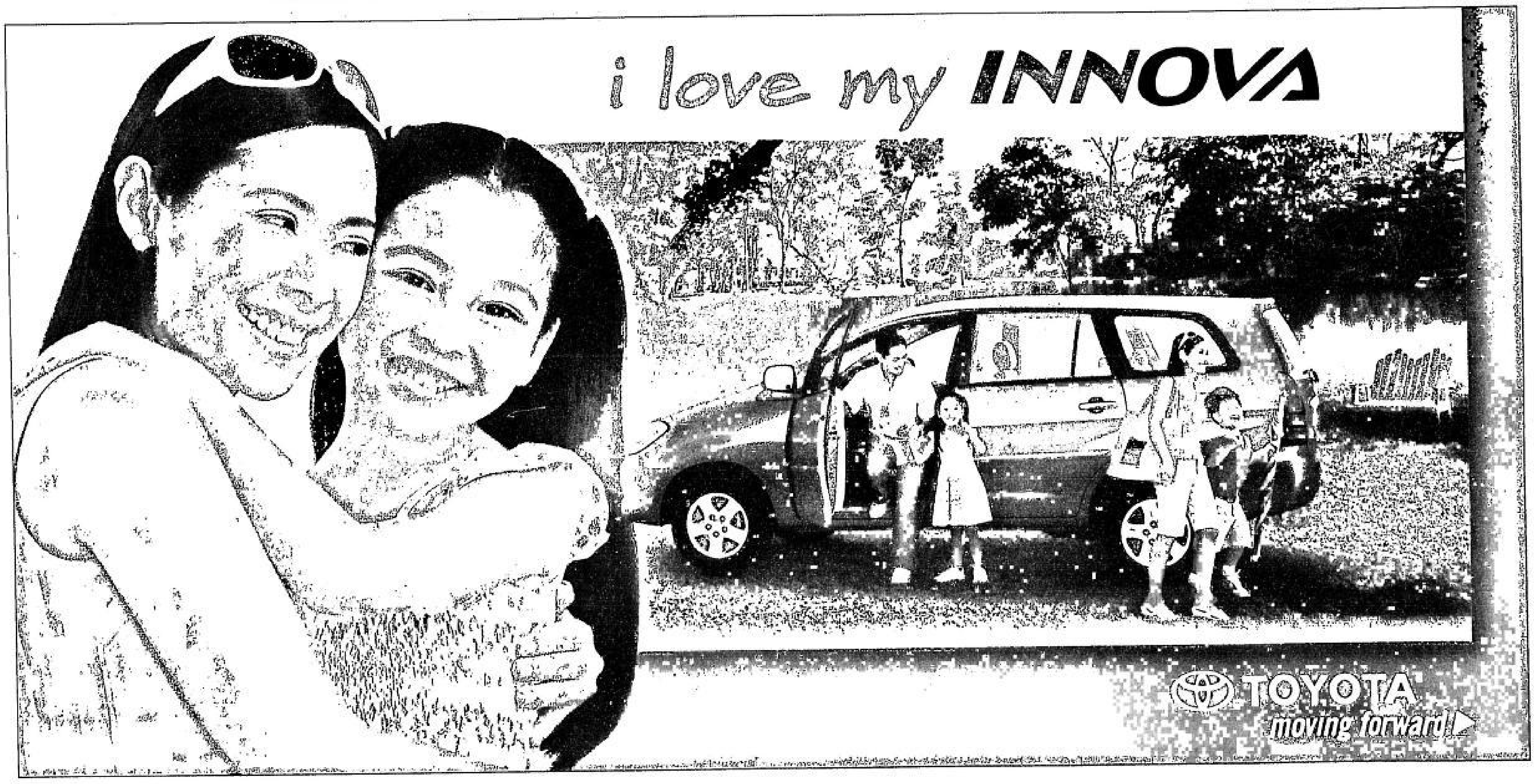

S. Korean hostages return home, offer apologies

ANYANG, SOUTH KOREA—Nineteen South Korean Christian volunteers held hostage by the Taliban in Afghanistan for six weeks returned home to an uncomfortable welcome on Sunday, thanking their government for saving them from death.

A senior Taliban leader told Reuters that Seoul had paid $20 million for their release, but the South Korean government denies paying any ransom—although has been criticized internationally for striking a deal through direct negotiations.

"We went to spread God's love and carry out his wishes," freed hostage Lyu Kyung-sik said after arriving. "All of us returned from being on verge of death and have been given our lives back."

The hostages—heads bowed, looking somber and some fighting back tears—stood behind Lyu as he made a brief statement at Incheon airport outside Seoul. He stood between framed pictures of the two hostages shot dead by the Taliban.

"All of us owe a big debt to the country and the South Korean people," said Lyu. "When thinking about the trouble we have caused them, it is proper for us to bow deeply and ask for your forgiveness."

The six-week standoff gripped the country, leading thousands to join candlelight vigils.

But many criticized the suburban Seoul Saemmul Church that dispatched the group as having a naive world view and for putting their government in a bind.

Websites of the country's main Protestant groups and largest Internet portals have been flooded with messages saying the group and church were to blame for ignoring government warnings and for making an ill-advised mission to an obvious danger spot.

The hostages were taken to a hospital in Anyang, south of Seoul, where many collapsed into the arms of waiting relatives, who cheered when the group entered a reception room. A few of the group, overcome by emotion, had to be carried out of the room.

The former hostages, mostly women, were then admitted for medical checks and kept away from the media.

Seo Jeung-bae was reunited with a son and daughter. "I was given back the two children I had lost. By holding them in my arms, I now know it's real," the smiling father said.

About 1,300 crammed Saemmul Church for services on Sunday with a pastor saying it was not right for the government to seek compensation from it for costs incurred in securing the release.

"Saemmul Church is at the center of a war against our will," pastor Park Eun-jo said in a message to parishioners about the criticism of its Afghan mission.

The South Korean government said it had agreed to pull out a small contingent of military engineers and medical staff and to end South Korean missionary work in Afghanistan in return for the release of the hostages.

It said there were no other conditions to the deal, although the Taliban had demanded swapping the Koreans for its prisoners. *Reuters*

PARK Hye-young (right), one of the 19 released S. Korean hostages, reunites with her mother west of Seoul, South Korea, on Sept. 2. AP

WORLDBRIEFS

Mysterious pig disease spreads through China

BEIJING—A mysterious disease affecting China's pork-raising industry has spread, and officials have ramped up vaccine output to cope with a "grim" situation, state media reported. More than 257,000 pigs had been infected with the epidemic, known as blue-eared pig disease, by late August, with 68,000 of them dying, official Xinhua news agency said late Saturday. Experts quoted in the Western media have expressed doubts about the official figures, suspecting the government is trying to keep a lid on a more serious crisis. Xinhua quoted a top official as saying more than 100 million pigs had been immunized, but that control efforts faced severe challenges.

AFP

Bhutto says talks with Musharraf stalled

LONDON/ISLAMABAD—Former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said on Saturday talks on a power sharing deal with President Pervez Musharraf had stalled but she would return to Pakistan within weeks even without agreement. "No understanding has been arrived at," she told a crowded news conference in London about her negotiations with Musharraf that would see him quit as Army chief and stand for reelection as president, and Bhutto return to become prime minister. She said talks between her party and envoys sent by Musharraf had been 80 percent successful "but matters appear to have stalled following resistance by members of the ruling party."

Reuters

Raid in France nets ETA's top bomb-maker

CAHORS, France—French and Spanish police Saturday foiled a car bomb plot by Basque separatist group ETA, netting its alleged top bomb-maker and three colleagues in what analysts termed a major blow for ETA. Spanish Interior Minister Alfredo Perez Rubalcaba told reporters in Madrid the arrests in southwestern France, during which police also seized explosives and detonators, were of "enormous importance." They were the culmination of an operation begun when three other ETA suspects were arrested on the French side of the border in July in a vehicle carrying 165 kilos of explosives, he said. Rubalcaba added the suspects had played key roles in a bomb attack at Madrid's Barajas airport last December that killed two people.

AFP

BODY ART IN BULGARIA

A girl shows her body painted with the Thracian king Seft during a body art festival in the town of Kazanlak, east of the Bulgarian capital Sofia, on Sept. 2. AP

Growing living-tissue heart valves a reality in 3-5 years

PARIS—SURGEONS WILL SOON BE ABLE to literally mend a broken heart using live tissue grown from a patient's very own stem cells, top cardiologists said Monday.

The whole procedure—harvesting cells from bone marrow, growing tissue, and surgically implanting the heart muscle or valve—could take as little as six weeks and could become routine within three-to-five years, they reported.

Their findings were published in a special issue of the Philosophical Transactions of The Royal Society B in Britain.

One reason heart attacks are so debilitating, even when they are not fatal, is because the human heart—a massive muscle surrounding four valves controlling the body's blood flow—does not regenerate. Damaged tissue stays damaged.

Most problems occur with age, when the old ticker simply begins to wear out.

"But the highest medical need for tissue-engineered heart valves is in the treatment of congenital heart malformation," which affects nearly one percent of all newborns, Simon Hoeurstrup, lead author of one of the studies, said.

Artificial heart valves currently available must be periodically replaced as children grow, leading to great suffering and higher death rates than in adults.

Bio-engineered heart muscle that could be grafted onto a patient's living tissue without fear of rejection by the immune system has long been a holy grail of cardiovascular medicine.

Artificial replacements "do the job and save people's lives," said celebrated heart surgeon Magdi Yacoub, who coordinated the 20-odd studies.

"But they cannot match the elegant, sophisticated functions of living tissues." While durable, mechanical hardware increases the risk of bacterial infection in the heart's inner lining, as well as abnormalities in blood flow. Recipients must also take medication to prevent blood clots, boosting the chances of internal bleeding and embolisms.

Cardiovascular disease, the number one killer worldwide, claimed some 17.5 million lives in 2005, according to the World Health Organization. Many of these deaths might have been avoided by timely surgery to implant replacement valves and heart muscle.

There are currently two broad techniques for making bio-prosthetic heart valves, and both have serious drawbacks.

Animal grafts, especially from pigs, are readily available, but differ in structure and tend to wear out. Human valves from donors work much better, but are in chronically short supply and can easily provoke immune reactions. *AFP*

Iraq civilian deaths up; Bush urges patience

BAGHDAD—CIVILIAN DEATHS FROM violence in Iraq rose in August, with 1,773 people killed, government data showed on Saturday, just days before the US Congress gets a slew of reports on President George W. Bush's war strategy.

The civilian death toll was up 7 percent from 1,653 people killed in July, according to figures from various ministries.

Nearly a quarter of the August total comprised 411 people killed in massive truck bombings against the minority Yazidi community in northern Iraq on Aug. 14.

Without the Yazidi attack, the death toll would still be higher than the June number of 1,227, which had been the lowest monthly total since a US-backed crackdown began in February.

The figures showed 87 Iraqi security forces were killed in August, a big drop from the previous month when 224 were killed.

Bush, under pressure from opposition Democrats and some senior Republicans to begin pulling US troops from Iraq, urged Congress on Friday to wait for the assessments on Iraq's security and political situation before making any judgments.

"The stakes in Iraq are too high and the consequences too grave for our security here at home to allow politics to harm the mission of our men and women in uniform," Bush said in a statement after visiting military officials at the Pentagon.

The US military says sectarian attacks have fallen since 30,000 more American troops deployed under Bush's plan to give Iraqi leaders "breathing space" to foster reconciliation between warring Shiite and Sunni Arabs.

The US commander in Iraq, Gen. David Petraeus, told an Australian newspaper in an interview this week there had been a 75 percent fall in religious and ethnic killing since last year.

But while some security gains have been achieved, no key laws aimed at healing deep sectarian divisions have been passed, and Shiite Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki's Cabinet has been hit by the withdrawal of nearly half his ministers.

An assessment of the "surge" of troops along with Iraq's political situation will be the focus of a series of pivotal reports to the US Congress in the coming two weeks that could prompt a shift in Washington's war policy. *Reuters*

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

US senator in sex solicitation resigns

WASHINGTON—REPUBLICAN US SEN. LARRY Craig, who represented the western state of Idaho for 27 years on Capitol Hill, announced that he was resigning following his arrest for allegedly soliciting sex with an undercover policeman in an airport bathroom.

The announcement Saturday was encouraged by national Republican leaders, worried that the scandal would taint all candidates belonging to the socially conservative party in the 2008 election cycle.

"It is with sadness and deep regret that I announce that it is my intent to resign from the Senate effective Sept. 30," Craig said at a news conference in Boise, the state capital of western state of Idaho.

An ardent opponent of gay marriage and an outspoken critic of sexual improprieties by other politicians, Craig, 62, said he was "deeply sorry," addressing his apology to the people of Idaho and to his own family.

Flanked by his wife, two of his children and the state governor, Craig said he would resign to remove an "unwanted and unfair distraction" from the Senate.

Idaho's Republican Gov. Butch Otter did not say who he plans to appoint to complete Craig's senatorial term, which ends in January 2009. The seat will be up for grabs in the November 2008 elections.

Craig's departure does not change the balance of power in the Senate, where Democrats currently hold a narrow 51-49 majority over Republicans.

Republicans have been plagued by a series of scandals.

In 2004, veteran Republican congressman Ed Schrock, who was married and had one child, declined to seek reelection after tapes surfaced allegedly showing him soliciting sex on a telephone service used by homosexual men to arrange meetings.

In September 2006, representative Mark Foley, long a vocal advocate against child abuse, resigned after evidence surfaced of a long history of soliciting teenage boys working as aides in the Congress. *AFP*

IDAHO Sen. Larry Craig announces his resignation from the Senate on Sept. 1, in Boise, Idaho, as his wife Suzanne stands by his side. AP

Tall story: Tiny gene variation influences height

By Richard Ingham

PARIS—SCIENTISTS ON SUNday announced they had uncovered the first gene that helps explain common differences in height among humans.

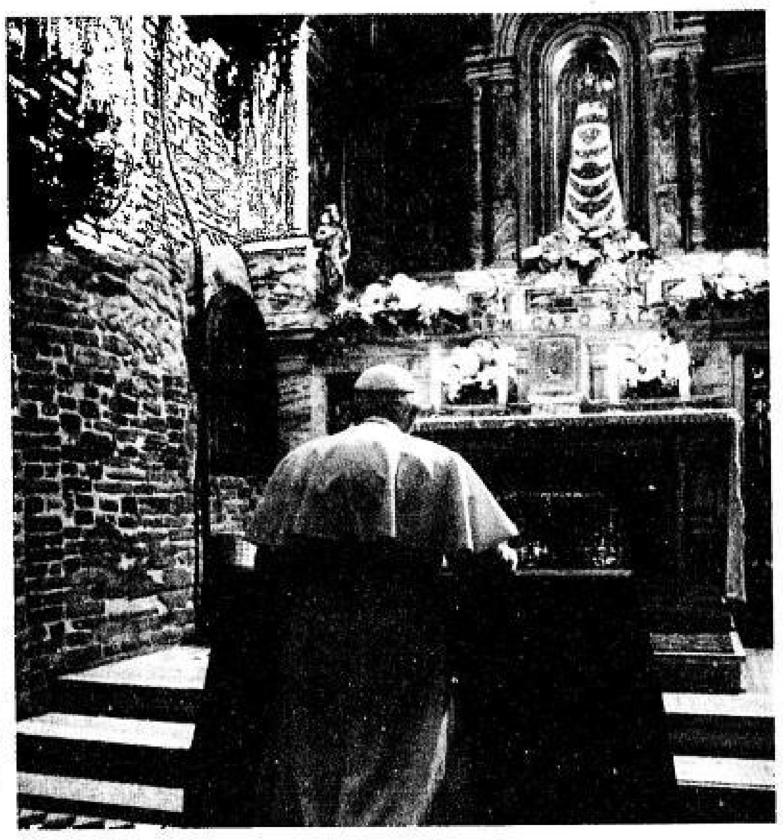
Just a single change in the gene's DNA code determines whether people will be taller or shorter by up to one centimeter (0.4 of an inch), they said, adding that hundreds of other genes are also likely to play a role in height.

Genetic heritage has long been known as the driver of height—everyone knows that a child whose parents are both tall is also likely to grow up tall, too.

Unlike obesity, where genes and environmental factors (nutrition and exercise for example) play a joint role, around 90 percent of the determinants for height are genetic.

Even though the link is clearly there, finding "height" genes that are common across the population has been strangely elusive. Until now, the only evidence has been spotted among a small group of people with a rare condition that affects their stature.

In a paper published by the journal Nature Genetics, British and US sleuths analyzed DNA from nearly 5,000 white people of European descent, mainly individuals living in Britain, Sweden and Finland. *AFP*



POPE Benedict XVI prays in front of a statue of Our Lady of Loreto in Loreto, central Italy, on Sept. 1. REUTERS

Pope leads Church's first eco-friendly rally

LORETO, ITALY—POPE BENEDICT on Saturday led the Catholic Church's first eco-friendly youth rally—where nearly everything used was biodegradable or recyclable—and urged his young listeners to shun "disposable love."

The 80-year-old Pope told the young people, estimated by organizers at some 300,000, to dare to change the world and search for lasting, meaningful relationships.

The two-day rally, which coincides with the Italian Catholic Church's "Day for Safeguarding Creation," saw young people sprawled on a vast hillside near the central Adriatic shrine city of Loreto.

Italy's Catholic Church, which organized the event, said it was the first environment-friendly youth rally, a break from past gatherings that left tons of garbage and scars on the earth.

A participants' kit included backpacks made of recyclable material, a flashlight operated by a crank instead of batteries, and color-coded trash bags so their personal garbage could be easily recycled. Meals were served on biodegradable plates.

Tens of thousands of prayerbooks for Sunday's Mass were printed on recycled paper and an adequate number of trees would be planted to compensate for the carbon produced at the event, many in areas of southern Italy devastated by recent brushfires.

The Vatican has become progressively "green." It has installed photovoltaic cells on buildings to produce electricity and hosted a scientific conference on climate change. *Reuters*

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Corteza sputters in Tour finals

Pinoy pockets $10,000 after lucky, gutsy march

BALI, INDONESIA—TAIWAN'S CHANG JUN-ling avenged his loss to Lee Vann Corteza in the eliminations, hacking out an 11-8 victory over the Filipino yesterday to win the Guinness 9-ball Tour Grand Finals at the Grand Ballroom of the Grand Hyatt Hotel here.

Chang took advantage of a series of scratch shots and poor stroke selections by Corteza to finish strong from 7-all and capture the top prize of $36,000 in the final tournament of the Tour's inaugural season.

Corteza, who beat Chang, 9-3, in their group-stage match Saturday to advance to the semifinals, settled for the runner-up purse of $10,000.

Earlier, Corteza defeated another Taiwanese, Wu Chia-ching, 11-9, in the semifinals to arrange the titular showdown with Chang, a 13-12 winner over compatriot Yang Ching-shun earlier.

Wu, the 2006 World 9-ball champion, led most of the way but two scratch miscues in the endgame allowed Corteza, who hails from Davao City, to reach the title match.

Tied at 9-all, the 18-year-old Wu had a scratch on the break of the 19th frame, allowing the 28-year-old Corteza to reach the hill.

Corteza, who used power breaks earlier in the match to take a 2-1 lead, shifted to the soft break starting in the 9th frame to trim Wu's lead to 6-3.

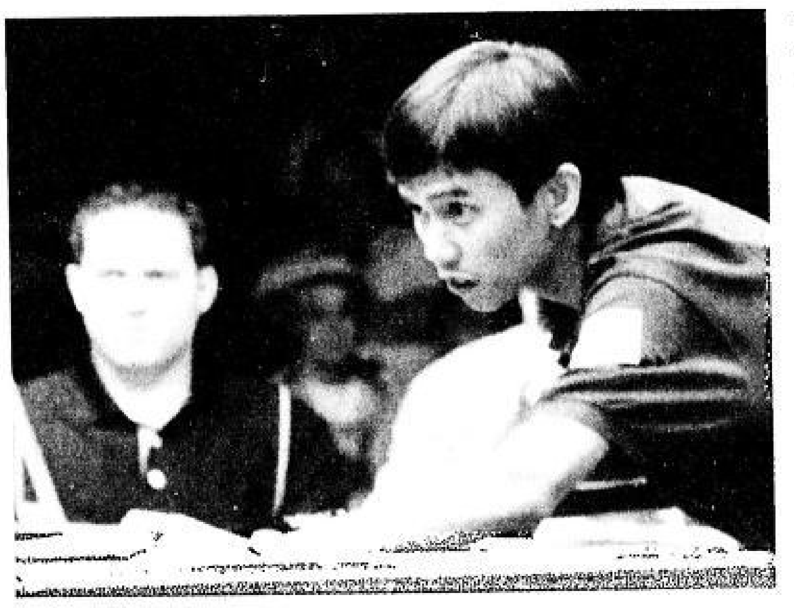
Chang needed three-and-a-half hours to beat Yang in the first semifinal match yesterday afternoon.

The 10th-ranked Corteza, who made it to the Grand Finals thanks to compatriot Ronnie Alcano's strong showing in the Shanghai leg last month, also bowed to Chang in the finals of the Jakarta leg, the tournament's inaugural leg, in April.

But Alcano, the world 9-ball and 8-ball champion, failed to advance this time in Group A where Yang Ching-sun and Wu finished 1-2 to reach the semifinals.

The other Group A entries were Ricky Yang of Indonesia and India's Dharminger Singh Lilly.

Bracketed in Group A with Corteza and Chang were Chang Fong-fang of Taiwan, Singapore's Bernard Tey and Ibrahim Amir of Malaysia. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*



LEE Vann Corteza (in file photo, right) reached the championship match with Taiwan's Chang Jun-ling with a come-from-behind semifinal victory over Chang's former world champion compatriot Wu Chia-ching.

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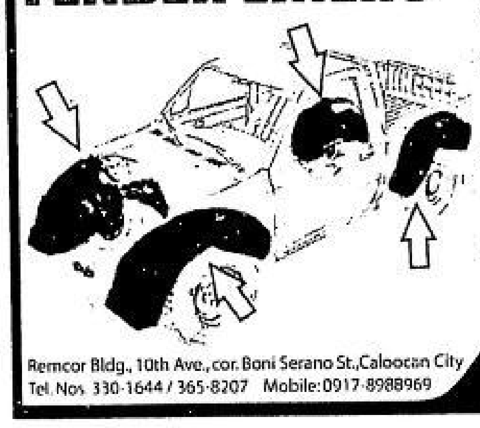

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Realtors, Koreans forge title duel

BRUNEI—THE STA. LUCIA REALTORS weathered a strong charge by the Darwin Airport Resort All-Stars in the second half for a 62-59 victory Saturday night in the semifinals of the Brunei Cup basketball tournament at the Indoor Stadium of the Hassanal Bolkiah National Sports Complex.

Import Anthony Johnson shot 21 points and Marlou Aquino, Dennis Espino and rookie guard Ryan Reyes preserved his effort with big all-around games that set up the Realtors for a championship showdown with South Korea's LG Sakers on Sunday.

The Koreans reached the finals by besting the Singapore Slingers, 81-71.

Sta. Lucia's fourth consecutive win in as many nights pulled the inspired Realtors within a victory of becoming just the first PBA team to rule this tournament, now in its seventh year.

Interestingly, the Realtors are playing without Fil-Am workhorse Kelly Williams, who had requested for a much-needed vacation.

"The team played four quarters of aggressive basketball defensively and offensively," said Sta. Lucia team manager Buddy Encarnado in an overseas call after the match.

Two free throws by Espino in the closing seconds clinched Sta. Lucia's vengeful win over the tall Aussies, who dealt the Realtors their only loss so far—an 82-67 rout on Aug. 26.

The scores:

STA. LUCIA 62—Johnson 21, Espino 8, Mendoza 7,Gonzales 7, Reyes 6, Miranda 5, Islp 4, Omolon 3, Aquino 1.

DARWIN 59—Meeh 18, Jones 16, Garlepp 9, Cohew 5, Zhahembra 4, Donaldson 4, Contis 3.

Knights eye bonus vs Bombers

STANDINGS	W	L
San Beda	11	1
Letran	8	3
Jose Rizal	7	4
Mapua	6	6
S Sebastian	4	7
Perpetual	3	8
St. Benilde	1	11

GAMES MONDAY (*The Arena, San Juan*)

11:30 a.m.—SSC vs Perpetual Help (Jrs)

2 p.m.—San Sebastian vs Perpetual (Srs)

4 p.m.— Letran vs Jose Rizal (Srs)

WHATEVER HAPPENS, THEY will still clash for the right to be in the NCAA men's basketball finals.

But Letran hopes to exploit its better placing to the hilt in its bid for the second Final Four incentive against Jose Rizal at 4 p.m. today at the Arena in San Juan.

With a second-running 8-3 card behind top semifinalist and defending champion San Beda (11-1), Letran automatically grabs the twice-to-beat bonus with a win over Jose Rizal (7-4).

If the Bombers prevail, they end up tied with the Knights at 8-4 and a playoff will be held this Friday to decide who gets the No. 2 slot and the semifinal incentive.

Letran, still smarting from an 87-84 loss to San Beda last Friday, will be shooting to avenge a 79-75 defeat to JRU in the first round.

"We will be motivated by our desire to clinch the No. 2 spot," said Letran coach Louie Alas.

San Sebastian and Perpetual play their last game of the season, disputing fifth place overall earlier at 2 p.m. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

La Salle, UST boost Final Four bids

By Jasmine W. Payo

TWO TEAMS MAKING A PUSH FOR THE Final Four pursued their goals with relative ease yesterday as La Salle and University of Santo Tomas zipped past their foes in the UAAP men's basketball tournament at the Big Dome.

The Green Archers hammered out a 78-64 victory over the National U Bulldogs that left coach Franz Pumaren satisfied with his team's second-running 9-3 record.

"I like where we are now; it's all in our hands, the fate of our placing," said Pumaren. "We're looking good. We've been giving good exposure to our bench players."

In the first game, the Tigers extended the woes of the winless University of the Philippines Maroons with a 77-61 triumph to remain in fourth place at 7-5.

The Tigers had their way early, scoring on easy layups and undergoal stabs for an 18-point lead, 43-25, in the second period.

As productive as the La Salle reserves' stints have been, it was a starter that keyed yesterday's rout of the Bulldogs.

JV Casio led the Green Archers by knocking in 14 points in the opening canto, allowing La Salle to take a 24-12 spread after 10 minutes of play.

Casio nearly completed a triple double by collecting 19 markers, nine boards and eights assists.

Along with the Tigers, the Ateneo Blue Eagles and the Far Eastern Tamaraws are aiming to topple the Archers from the second spot.

STANDINGS	W	L
Univ. of East	12	0
La Salle	9	3
Ateneo	7	4
Santo Tomas	7	5
Far Eastern	6	6
National U	4	7
Adamson	1	10
Univ. of Phils.	0	11

GAMES THURSDAY
(*Ninoy Aquino Stadium*)

2 p.m.—Ateneo vs Univ. of Phils.

4 p.m.—National U vs Adamson

The scores:

First Game

UST 77—Cruz 16, Espiritu 16, Ababou 10, Mirza 8, Dizon 7, Badua 6, Allera 5, Taylor 4, Cortez 3, Cuan 2, Basa 0, Scott 0, Gile 0, Soriano 0, Canlas 0.

UP 61—Serios 15, Rivera 7, Gamboa 6, Reyes 6, Sison 5, De Asis 5, Co 5, Lopez 4, Wong 3, Dela Victoria 3, Epres 2, Marlori 0.

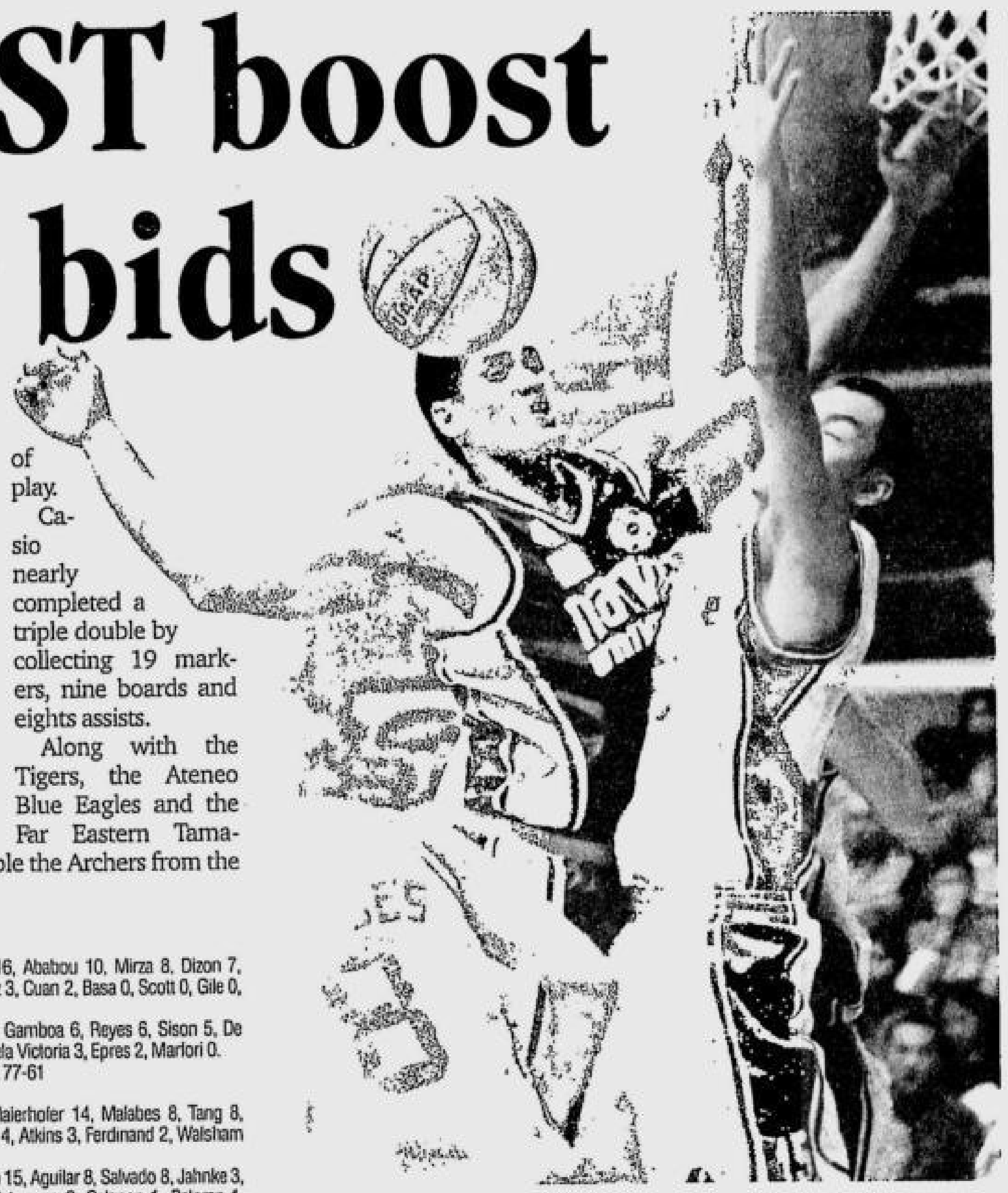
Quarters: 19-8, 43-27, 61-47, 77-61

Second Game

LA SALLE 78—Casio 19, Maierhofer 14, Malabes 8, Tang 8, Barua 6, Villanueva 6, Mangahas 4, Atkins 3, Ferdinand 2, Walsham 0, Cua 0, Co 0.

NU 64—Fernandez 21, Asoro 15, Aguilar 8, Salvado 8, Jahnke 3, Dela Cruz 3, Lingao-Lingao 2, Catamora 2, Galapon 1, Baloran 1, Ponferrada 0, Terso 0, Luy 0, Garcia 0, Malagueño 0.

Quarters: 24-12, 39-25, 52-43, 78-64



A DRIVING Edwin Asoro (center) of NU loses possession as he slams into La Salle's Brian Ilad in yesterday's game. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

In-form Lascuña cools down, settles for 3rd

LASCUÑA

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN—A BREAKthrough win in the Asian Tour continued to elude Tony Lascuña as the Filipino shotmaker settled for a tie for third place in the $300,000 Brunei Open won by Taiwanese longshot Lin Weng-tang by two strokes Sunday.

Lascuña, tied for second overnight after two blistering rounds of five-under-par 66, cooled down with a one-under 70 and finished three strokes behind Lin with a 272 total.

Lin, the 33-year-old 2006 Taiwan Open winner, matched his opening score of 65 in the final round and overtook third-round leader Adam Le Vesconte of Australia with a 15-under aggregate of 269.

Le Vesconte, the 2005 Philippine Open champion, faded in the final day for the second straight week with a 73 for 271.

A runner-up last week at the Johor Open in Malaysia won by compatriot Artemio Murakami, Lascuña finished in a deadlock with Taiwanese veteran Lu Wen-teh, who also shot a 70, and Australian Scott Barr, who had a 66.

With his $12,420 payday, Lascuña boosted his earnings to $64,018 in nine tournaments while moving several notches up from his 50th ranking in the UBS Order of Merit when the tournament started.

Juvic Pagunsan, the Asian Tour's top rookie last year, recalled his old form with a 68 and was the second-best Filipino in the field with a 4-under 280, good for a tie for 20th.

Murakami finished a stroke back at 281 after a 70 while Mars Pucay had a 70 for 282.

Lascuña, who won the 2007 Selangor Masters during the two-month Asian Tour break, was in the thick of the fight for first with two birdies on the front nine, but a bogey on the 11th and 16th holes derailed his charge.

The Taiwanese winner started the day six strokes behind in fourth place at the Empire Hotel and Country Club course.

Pinoy chesser rules GM-laden Rome tilt

Final Standings

5.5 points—**FM Virgilio Vuelban (RP)**; 5.0—GM Igors Rausis (Czech Republic), IM Milan Mrdja (Croatia); 4.5—GM Oleg Korneev (Russia), GM Igor Naumkin (Russia), IM Bogomil Andonov (Bulgaria), GM Milko Povchev (Bulgaria)

UNHERALDED FILIPINO Fide Master Virgilio Vuelban stole the thunder from the grandmasters recently by topping the tough Rome International Chess Festival in the Italian capital.

Vuelban, 35, who has an Elo rating of 2332, beat two GMs in tallying 5.5 points on five wins and a draw in the six-round Swiss tourney.

Among Vuelban's victims were top seed Russian GM Oleg Korneev and Bulgarian GM Milko Povchev.

Just last Saturday, IM Rolly Martinez earned his first GM norm when he finished fourth in the 27th Chess Festival in Bratto, Italy. He pooled 6.5 points.

Martinez, the solo overnight leader, dropped his ninth and final match to eventual champion GM Vladimir Burmakin of Russia. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

ARDINA: Eight shots worse

Ardina balloons to 77 but still makes cut

DOTTIE ARDINA MADE THE cut for the second straight week despite a six-over-par 77 but the Filipina teener slipped from joint 11th to a share of 37th after the second round of the Finnair Masters now paced by Germany's Bettina Hauert in Helsinki, Finland, Saturday.

After a bogey-free two-under 69 on Friday, Ardina lost her touch, fumbling with four bogeys and a double bogey for nines of 36-41. She had no birdie to show.

Ardina shared 37th spot with eight others at 146, 11 strokes behind Hauert, who fired a 67 for 135 to grab a four-stroke lead over Kaisa Ruuttila of Finland. The Finnish bet had 139 after a 69.

American Kris Lindstrom, who led in the first round with a 65, skied to a 75 and slid to joint third at 140, five shots off the pace heading into the final 18 holes of the 54-hole pro tournament.

Despite her wobbly second round output, the 13-year-old Ardina still hopes to bounce back and come up with a respectable finish. She finished third to last at the SAS Masters in Norway last week.

SPORTSWATCH

World champion Niida foils RP's Gejon a second time

FILIPINO ERIBERTO GEJON FAILED IN HIS bid to become the country's fourth world champion Saturday night, losing by unanimous decision to WBA minimumweight champion Yutaka Niida of Japan in their 12-round fight at the Korakuen Hall in Tokyo.

Niida, who beat Gejon in their first encounter in 2005 via a disputed split technical decision win, left no doubt as to who is the better fighter this time.

Judge Giuseppe Quartarone of Italy and Jean Louis-Legland of France both saw it 117-112 and Thailand's Chalerm Prayadsab scored it 117-111, all for the champion.

It was Niida's sixth successful defense of the title while the loss was Gejon's second in 26 fights. *Salven Lagumbay, Contributor*

Sarmiento dominates Active Mid Amateur Open

MANILA SOUTHWOODS' BENJIE SARMIento rallied with an even-par 72 punctuated by birdies on the last two holes to win the Open Division championship of the fifth Active Group Mid Amateur Open at the Mt. Malarayat Golf and Country Club in Lipa City recently.

Sarmiento hit a 6 iron to about 10 feet off the cup on the 17th for a birdie, then closed out with another birdie from 15 feet.

After opening with a 79, Sarmiento finished with 151, one shot ahead of Canlubang's Mari Hechanova, who made 78-74.

Third was Cangolf's Boyet Zaragosa with 153 (79-74) in the event sponsored by Pacsports, Nike Golf, Cleveland and Tourstage.

In the Pacsports Skills Challenge, Tony Pernez had the best short-iron shot, Jose Nepomuceno the best mid-iron shot and Zaragosa the longest drive. Bobby Inigo won as the best putter.

In the Open Division II, Arnel Agustin of Eagle Ridge submitted a 166 and ran away with the crown. John Elapano was second with a 169 followed by Gerardo Brufal (170) and Boom Coscolluela (172).

Other winners were Pitong Quiocho (Masters I), Alan Alegre (Masters II), Severino Roxas-Chua (Seniors I), Eddie Garcia (Seniors II), Lino Magpantay (Legends I) and Kenneth Miller (Legends II).

'Showdown' round 2 begins

THE WAR OF THE BREEDERS RESUMES at the San Juan Coliseum today via the second round of "Pitgames Showdown" 6-stag derby with more than 100 fights.

Four entries from Pangasinan, each with with three wins, dominated the first round last Saturday: Alvaness of Alfe Soriano, GBAP Aces of Vice Gov. Osmund Lambino and Tabatina I and II of Pablo Hufano.

Also with perfect scores are Banjo of Mayor Buddy Dunca, Simple Lang of Philip Mendez, JP San Pablo of Mayor Jesry Palmares and Octagon of 2007 World Slasher Cup champ Wilson Ong.

'Pacman' derby at MC today

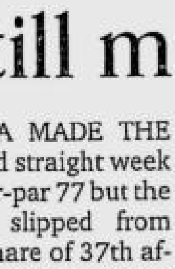
THE BIG GUNS OF COCKFIGHTING CONverge at the Makati Coliseum today as the Super Pacman 5-Stag Derby takes centerstage with more than 100 fights lined up.

Billed as favorites are the entries of boxing champ Manny Pacquiao, Patrick Antonio, Gerry Ramos and Boy Marzo.

Prominent cockers from the National Cockers Association, Pasay Cockpit Cockers Association, Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines and Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association are competing.

Pacquiao: Apology and good news

BARE EYE



Recah Trinidad

LOS ANGELES—IF YOU ASK BRIAN Viloria what he's up to, you'd probably get a reply from Mark Twain.

Yes, reports that Viloria has retired were grossly exaggerated.

In fact, Viloria, who had a brief reign as world light flyweight king, is scheduled to spar with the highly rated Rodel Mayol at the Pound-for-Pound gym in the La Brea area here Monday.

This was confirmed by trainer Nonoy Neri, who effectively sidelines as Team Pacquiao nutritionist, to the INQUIRER the other day after overseeing Mayol through 29 rounds of tough boxing drills at the Wild Card gym.

Neri, with a sharp eye for talent, should be able to determine where the young Viloria is really headed: Back for good into the boxing arena or inside the broadcast booth.

***

Fans back home may no longer miss Viloria, but we'll also try to see and report if he still packs the old wallop.

Of course, the brighter news at Wild Card is the one that says Manny Pacquiao is scheduled to resume working out Monday in preparation for his Oct. 6 rematch with Marco Antonio Barrera.

You all know that the Pacman got stalled in training by the flu virus.

There were initial reports he had been rushed to the hospital.

"Is it serious enough to postpone the fight?" widely read SunStar columnist Homer Sayson texted from his cozy Chicago base.

***

Not to worry.

Ronnie Nathanielsz reported from Cebu that Pacquiao felt strong and restless on Saturday that he offered to promptly resume training.

He was, naturally, held in check by his physicians.

Otherwise, Pacquiao would have exposed himself to a crippling relapse.

Another piece of good news is this one from Freddie Roach.

The two-time Trainer of the Year has assured that Pacquiao's brief bout with the flu would not in any way set back their timetable.

Roach, in fact, tried to explain that the forced break could prove helpful because Pacquiao "had already gone ahead of schedule."

Of course, this update on Pacquiao's latest condition is not expected to sound too good and bright to the Barrera camp.

No need to elaborate.

***

OK, we've been asked to do only a short piece, so let me confess that this was originally meant as an apology to the Pacman.

Why? Well, Manny may have not noticed it. Or, if he did, he must've brushed it off.

In my previous column (on distress calls from Wild Card), trainer Neri described Pacquiao, his big boss, as both super *mabait* and super *maawain*.

Sorry, but these endearing terms could've also been misconstrued and helped make Pacquiao appear pitiful.

For the record, though, everybody knows Pacquiao to be very merciful (*maawain*).

But the boxing super hero has always tried to be in control.

He has remained the captain of his soul, so to say.

But enough of that. All's well that ends well, as Mr. Twain, rather Shakespeare, put it.

At least the hazy adjectives failed to cast a spell on Pacquiao, who's anything but soft despite the tyrannical flu virus.

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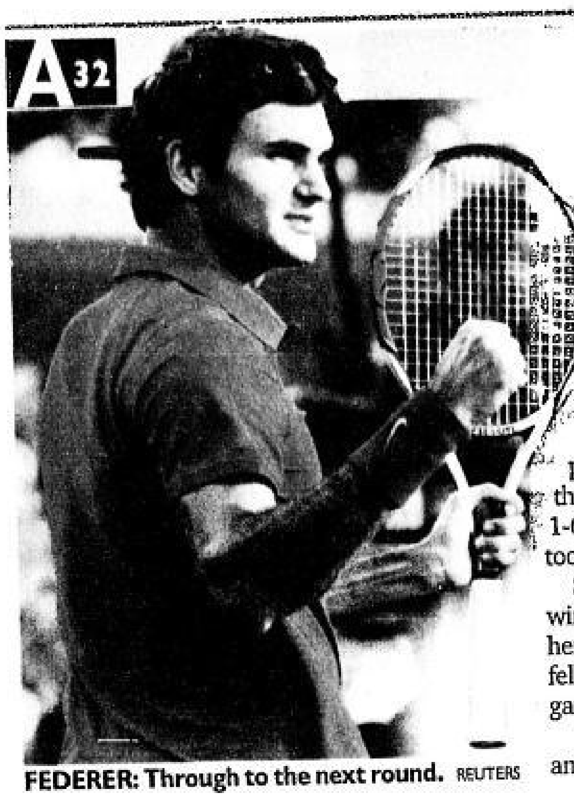


FEDERER: Through to the next round. REUTERS

NEW YORK—BOTHERED BY swirling gusts and a teen's surprising moxie, Maria Sharapova was completely lost.

Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland pulled off the stunning upset, beating the defending US Open champion, 6-4, 1-6, 6-2, in a third-round match that took a startling turn Saturday.

Sharapova seemed to take control by winning eight games in a row, giving her a 2-0 lead in the final set. Then, she fell apart and dropped the last six games.

"I could sit here and blame the wind and blame my opponent. But there are no excuses," Sharapova said. "I'm not going to throw myself a pity party here."

Sharapova became the first No. 2-seeded woman to lose before the round of 16 at the Open since Andrea Jaeger in 1981.

No such drama for top-ranked Roger Federer, who proved too much for 6-foot-9 American rookie John Isner in a 6-7 (4), 6-2, 6-4, 6-2 victory.

Isner used his booming serve to win the first-set tiebreaker.

"Four months ago, I was unranked," Isner said. "To go from that to beating Roger Federer in a set is pretty cool."

Fifth-seeded Andy Roddick breezed, beating 2002 Australia Open champion Thomas Johansson of Sweden, 6-3, 6-2, 6-0, to reach the fourth round.

In other men's matches, No. 4 Nikolay Davydenko of Russia beat No. 28 Nicolas Almagro of Spain, 7-5, 6-0, 7-5, No. 6 James Blake beat Stefan Koubek, 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (5), 6-1, in a match that finished after 1 a.m. local time Sunday, while No. 9 Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic and No. 10 Tommy Haas of Germany advanced.

One minor upset came when No. 19 Andy Murray lost to 43rd-ranked Lee Hyung-taik, 6-3, 6-3, 2-6, 7-5. *AP*

Gay wins 3rd gold medal

OSAKA, JAPAN—TYSON GAY JOINED some fast, fast company. Allyson Felix is a race away from doing the same. The powerhouse pair helped the United States sweep the men's and women's 4x100-meter relays Saturday night at the world track and field championships in a noisy, packed Nagai Stadium. Gay joined Carl Lewis and Maurice Greene as the only men to win three gold medals at one world meet. Felix, winner of the 200 meters on Friday night, earned her second gold and can get a third in the women's 4x400 relay Sunday night. *AP*

Mission accomplished for US, Argentina

Games Today (*Basketball TV*)
8 a.m.—Puerto Rico vs. Brazil (*Battle for 3rd place*)
10 a.m.—USA vs. Argentina (*Finals*)

LAS VEGAS—LUIS SCOLA scored 27 points and Argentina, playing without four NBA players from the team that won Olympic gold in 2004, beat Brazil, 91-80, on Saturday in the semifinals of the Americas basketball tournament to earn a berth at the Beijing Games.

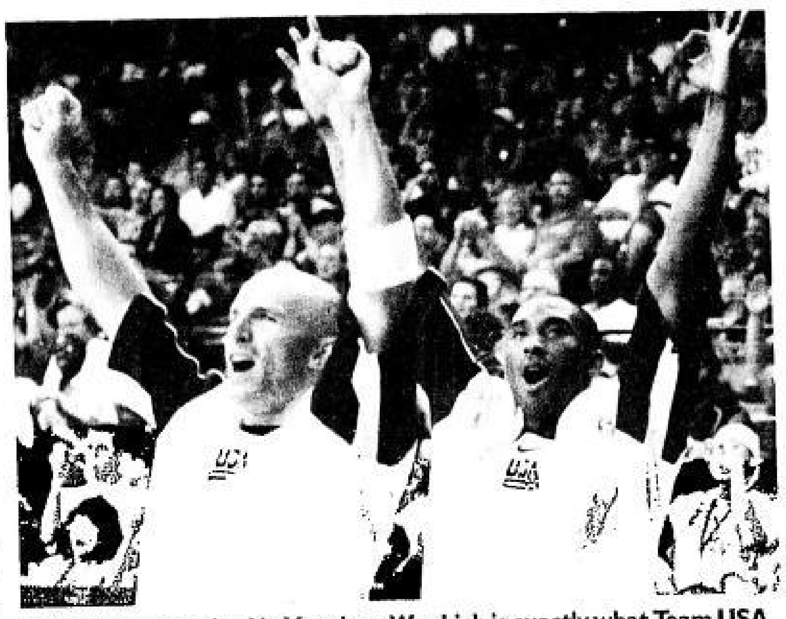
Argentina will meet the United States in the Americas final after the Americans later clinched their spot at the 2008 Olympics by crushing Puerto Rico, 135-91.

Scola, who signed with the Houston Rockets, and Carlos Delfino, who plays for the Toronto Raptors, were the NBA stars for this Argentina team, which lost one game in this tournament—91-76 to the United States in the second round.

The four NBA players from the gold medal team—Manu Ginobili, Fabricio Oberto, Andres Nocioni and Walter Herrmann—are all expected to join Argentina for the 2008 Olympics.

Argentina, the United States, host China, the reigning world champion Spain and zone champions Iran, Angola and Australia have all earned berths at Beijing. Two European entrants will be decided this month.

Brazil, Puerto Rico and fifth-place finisher Canada all advanced to a 12-team qualifying tournament next July that will determine the final berths in Beijing. *AP*



A PAIR of arms raised in V make a W, which is exactly what Team USA got over Puerto Rico. Jason Kidd (left) and Kobe Bryant celebrate the win, which qualified the US for the 2008 Beijing Olympics. REUTERS

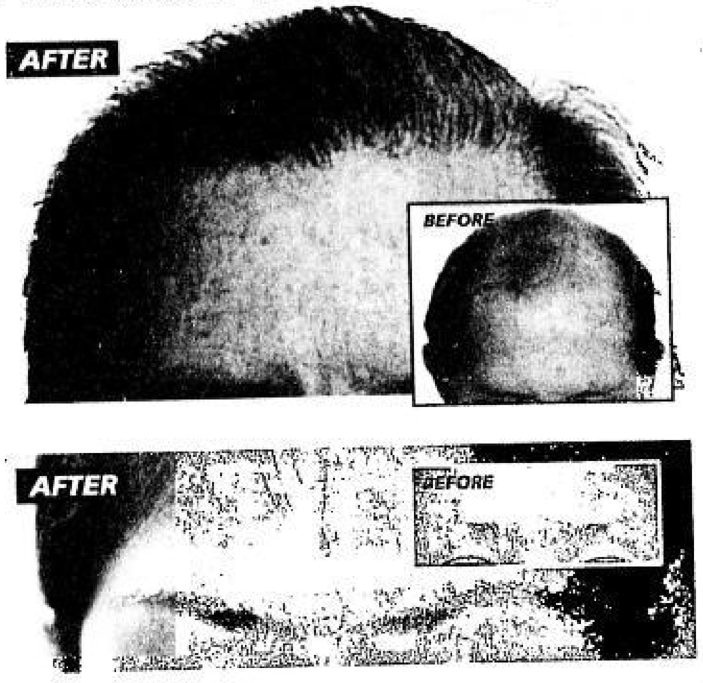
Beem hangs tough as Tiger, Phil make charge

NORTON, MASSACHUSSETS—RICH BEEM kept alive his improbable run at the Deutsche Bank Championship with birdies on his last four holes for a 5-under 66 Saturday, leaving him in a three-way tie with Mike Weir and Aaron Baddeley.

One week after he narrowly avoided elimination from these PGA Tour Playoffs, Beem cannot finish lower than second if he wants to advance to the third tournament next week, and a crowded leaderboard with 36 holes remaining includes Phil Mickelson and Tiger Woods, who each shot 64 to get within three of the lead.

It was another strong showing by Beem, who is slowly becoming the poster boy that even long shots are allowed to dream of a $10-million prize for the winner of the FedEx Cup.

"Of all the things I could be the poster child for, this is not the one that I would have picked," said Beem. *AP*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BSP expects '07 trade deficit to hit $6.9B

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES IS BRACING FOR A TRADE DEFICIT of $6.9 billion this year—wider than the $4.5 billion posted last year—due to high oil prices and cutthroat global competition in electronic exports.

Based on the latest projections of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, export earnings will grow at a rate of 8 percent—slower than last year—and generate $49.9 billion this year. The revised figure on trade inflows is much lower than the earlier forecast

BSP EXPECTS/ B3

STOCK MARKET

PSE to follow US market higher

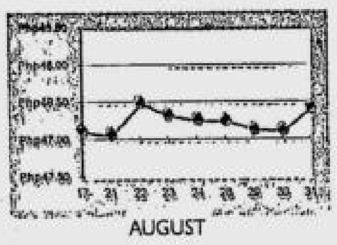
THE LOCAL STOCK MARKET WOULD LIKELY be buoyed by positive sentiment in New York, following last Friday's unveiling by US President George W. Bush of a slew of measures to help homeowners cope with the credit crunch.

In a research note to its clients, stock broker

PSE TO/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱46.55 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Aug. 31, 2007

IN THIS ISSUE
Coal still seen as fuel of choice /B2
Cosco firms up plans for $3-B hub /B3

BPI Celebrating 156 Years of Banking Excellence

The BPI Network: Creating Customer Touch Points to Suit Your Lifestyle

Over the years, Bank of the Philippine Islands has been designing and redesigning its network to meet the changing times and the evolving lifestyles of its customers.

From brick-and-mortar to virtual, from person-to-person to electronic, from ATM to mobile banking, BPI offers its clients a vast array of customer touch points to make their banking as convenient as possible. Today, as BPI turns 156, it boasts of over 800 branches, more than 1,400 ATMs, 11,000 point-of-sale terminals and a 24/7 Call Center. And with its Express Phone, Express Online and Express Mobile, every landline, PC and cellphone is now part of the BPI network.

While its innovations in electronic banking may have been more noticeable, BPI has also made significant changes in its branch network – in location, in special services for unique target markets and in the facilities you'll find within the branch.

BPI pioneered the branch in the mall, which caters to individuals who are tied to the office on weekdays and who spend their weekends or after-office hours shopping. These mall-based outlets called BPI Express Banking Centers (EBC) allow shoppers to open an Express Teller account and get the ATM card in 20 minutes. The EBC also handles applications for BPI credit cards, auto and housing loans, and Express Cash.

Even BPI's regular branches, although seemingly uniform in its offerings, provide more than general banking services. Some of them are specially designed to handle corporate requirements while others will cater to individuals with sophisticated financial and investment needs. Still, others will provide expertise in handling the needs of overseas Filipinos and their families.

But there's more. Last year, BPI started rolling out branches called BPI Express, catering to individuals who want fast, friendly services for their simple routine transactions and basic banking needs. The branch offers you complete electronic banking channels – ATM, phone and online banking – and an Express Services Counselor to teach and assist you in completing your transactions using these channels. Tellers are also on hand, as well as Express Sales Counselors to answer your queries and offer financial advice.

For its innovative concept, the BPI Express branch won the Branch Transformation Project of the Year at the 2007 Banker Technology Awards. The award, given by the premier financial publication, The Banker, annually cites the best banking practices and innovations worldwide. BPI Express earned this citation besting other international banks.

Truly, banking has gone a long way with BPI's innovations in bank customer touch points. You can expect nothing less from a bank that takes to heart its commitment to bring its customers farther.

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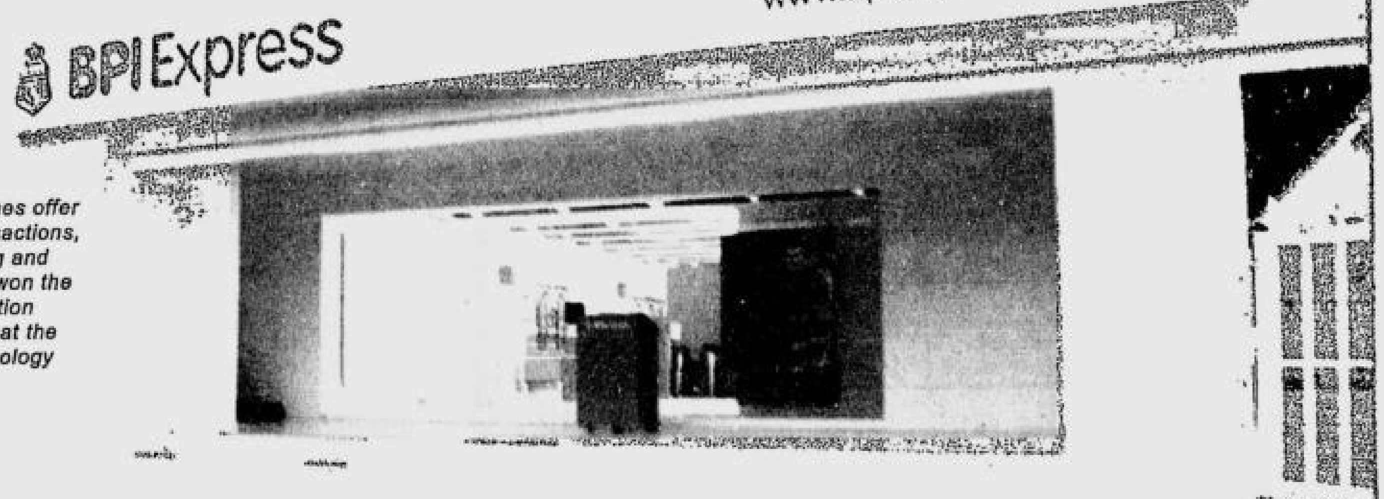
Another innovation from the
Bank of the Philippine Islands

BPI EXPRESS: The Friendly Place to Bank

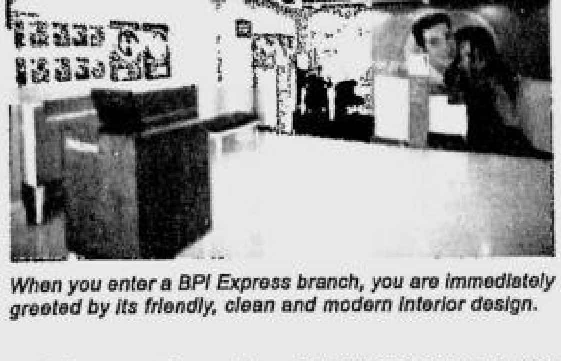
BPI Express branches offer teller-assisted transactions, self-service banking and financial advice. It won the Branch Transformation Project of the Year at the 2007 Banker Technology Awards.



Time. Somehow there's never enough. As everyone knows, time is money, and minutes matter. So the last thing you want is to spend time on routine tasks like banking. Just *thinking* about the lines – from the payday ATM rush to the long wait for the teller – can be stressful.

Even more stressful is not knowing how to do your transactions using the phone or the computer at the bank - it makes you wish someone took the time to help you figure things out. And when you want to consult about getting a loan or financial advice, you feel like everyone's listening in on what you're saying - the bank just doesn't seem private enough to talk about such matters.

But fret no more, Bank of the Philippine Islands has come up with a friendly solution–its newest branch type called BPI Express, now in more locations nationwide.



When you enter a BPI Express branch, you are immediately greeted by its friendly, clean and modern interior design.

It's a bank that's adapted for today's hurried lifestyle.

From the moment you enter the stylish, not-so-bank-looking bank, you notice the difference. The sunny decor, relaxed yet fast-moving mood and even the helpful, friendly BPI Express Counselors make it feel more like a boutique than a bank.

The BPI Express consultation area is designed to help keep financial discussions with clients strictly private and confidential.

Basic transactions are quick and easy with the BPI Express Electronic Banking zone.

There you'll find BPI Express Teller ATMs, a phone for BPI Express Phone and a computer to access BPI Express Online. Plus, a BPI Express Services Counselor is there to help you every step of the way. Once you learn how to do it, you can do your banking from the comfort of your home or your office.

BPI Express has friendly tellers on hand for your other transactions.

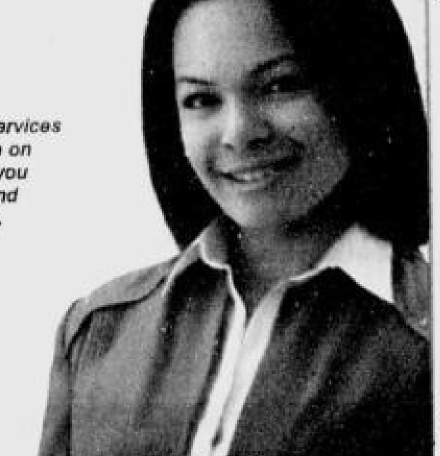
BPI Express caters to simple routine transactions, so lines at the tellers are short. Think of the whole branch as a supermarket Express Lane - a fast lane designed to move you through quickly and more pleasantly.

But the "Express" isn't just about speed; it's also about expression. Just tell us what you need, and we'll help you find it – not standing at a counter, but in the privacy and comfort of a personal workstation. Here, BPI Express Sales Counselors can give you simple, practical advice on loans, investments, financial planning and other money matters.

Our tellers are ready to assist you with your simple, routine transactions. That's why lines are shorter and transactions are faster.

BPI Express offers private financial consultations.

So, if you want to have more control over your time and get friendly, fast service, come and visit the nearest BPI Express branch. You might just be surprised at how quick — and pleasant your banking experience could be.



BPI Express Services Counselors are on hand to teach you about phone and online banking.

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Coal still seen as fuel of choice

Mine expert cites mineral's abundance, stable price

By Abigail L. Ho

ENVIRONMENT GROUPS MAY BE strongly opposed to its use, but coal is likely to remain the fuel of choice for power generation, due mainly to its abundance and relatively lower price as compared with other fuel types.

Energy industry veteran and MG Mining and Energy Corp. vice chair Rufino Bomasang said Asian power generation companies, in particular, were likely to continue to lean more toward coal as fuel, since other fuel sources such as oil and natural gas were concentrated in the Middle East and Russia.

In a presentation during the recent Asean Energy Business Forum in Singapore, he said the cost of coal-based power generation was estimated at only 4.5 centavos per kilowatt-hour (kWh), as compared with 4.5-6.9 centavos per kWh for natural gas combined cycle, 2-8 centavos per kWh for large hydropower facilities, 3-10 centavos per kWh for wind and 40-60 centavos per kWh for solar.

"Coal prices are likely to remain lower and more stable in the future," he said, adding that prices had declined in real terms over the past years due to market competition.

And coal is almost evenly distributed around the world. It is being mined in more than 50 countries, he said.

Based on available data, he said, there are enough coal reserves for 160 years of production. Oil and gas reserves, on the other hand, could be depleted by as early as the middle of the 21st century.

The ease of storing coal also presented another advantage, as it could be easily drawn on in case of emergency, he said. Since it was not dependent on weather, it could be used as backup for wind and hydropower.

"Low-cost coal-fired power generation enhances the use of renewable energy, especially wind power which is inherently erratic, by using the former as baseload and the latter for peaking," he said.

Bomasang also said that clean coal technology is now available. The technology can reduce the impact of coal combustion on the environment and address concerns of militant groups.

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MILESTONES
President Macapagal-Arroyo views the gallery of milestones, detailing TeleTech's growth in the Philippines. With Ms. Arroyo is TeleTech site director Nicki Agcaoili (left), TeleTech vice president Maulik Parekh (beside the President) and DTI Secretary Peter Favila. TeleTech currently employs over 12,000 Filipino employees in 10 delivery centers across the country. TeleTech Lipa is the 7th site to be inaugurated by the company.

PSE to follow US market higher

From page B1

age AB Capital Securities said activity on the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) would also take its cue from the speech given by US Federal Reserve chair Ben Bernanke during the agency's annual conference at the end of last week.

"Being closely tied to the US bourses, the Philippine market will feel the effects of the US markets reaction to Bernanke's speech," the brokerage firm said.

At the end of last week, the PSE index rose by a total of 158.35 points, representing a 4.94-percent gain from the previous week's close of 3,206.94.

The PSEi registered gains from Tuesday onward, ending the week at 3,365.29.

Thursday's announcement by the government of a 7.5-percent growth in the local economy helped the market gain 3.45 percent in a single day, taking investors' minds off the ongoing credit squeeze in the US housing market.

Despite this, trading activity last week was slightly lower with only P15.476 billion worth of shares changing hands, compared to the P17.629 billion of the week before.

AB Capital said gains in the local market this week would likely be muted by continued caution among investors, pending clearer signals that the liquidity crisis in the United States has subsided.

"The market is not expected to move by a huge margin in either direction [this] week," the research note said. "Low trading volumes focused on blue chips will prevail while investors wait for a clear cut signal that the volatility brought about by the US problems has been resolved."

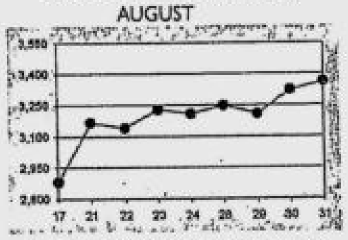
This week's upside would likely come from comments made by Bernanke on Friday that the US central bank would "do what is needed" to calm the credit markets—a statement interpreted by the market as policymakers' openness to reducing interest rates when the Federal Open Market Committee meets on Sept. 18.

Lower interest rates in the US normally prompt fund managers to shift their funds' higher-yielding investments abroad like the Philippines.

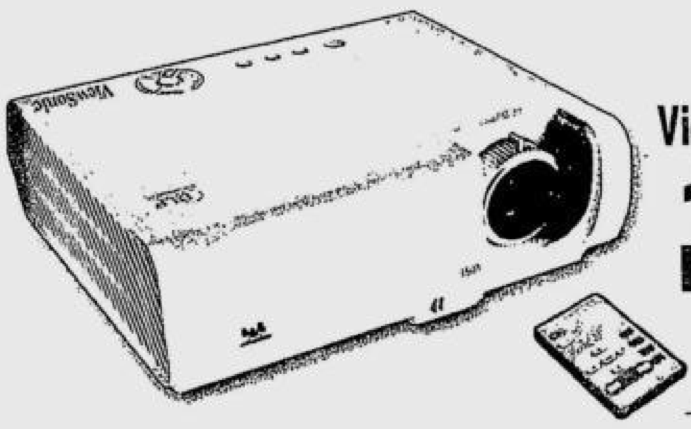
Any upward move would likely put the PSEi above the 3,400 level, while immediate support is seen at the 3,250.

Trading values are also expected to improve as punters return to the market with the end of the traditional Chinese "ghost month," and as fund managers overseas return from their summer vacations. *Daxim L. Lucas*

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX
AUGUST



(See stock market report on Page B6)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For further inquiries, please contact **Messrs. Carlos S. Quiatchon or Dan C. Labrador** at VMC Millsite at telephone numbers **(034) 399-3696 to 97** and (local trunkline) **2351 or 2309**, or **Mr. Ernesto "Toto" Oligo** at VMC Makati Office at telephone numbers **(02)899-0485** and **(02)890-7061**. Also visit our website www.victoriasmilling.com and e-mail us at mcd@victoriasmilling.com.

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(PDI--Sept. 3, 2007)

Cosco firms up plans for $3-B hub

China maritime giant wants to put up facilities in Subic, Sangley Point

By Ronnel W. Domingo

A TEAM OF EXPERTS FROM CHINESE shipping giant China Ocean Shipping Co. will be making a third visit to the country to figure out how to split a $3-billion regional cargo hub between Sangley Point and Subic.

Francis Chua, presidential adviser on China trade and investments, said in an interview that the team had visited twice in July to look over the former US naval bases.

Cosco originally considered building a base at Sangley Point in Cavite, where it would collect shipments from various points in the region, before sending these out to the United States and other destinations in the Pacific.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has even issued an executive order mandating the development of Sangley Point into an international logistics hub.

But Chua said the Cosco team, comprised of experts from the group's diverse operations in the region, had seen the advantages of locating in Subic as well. He added Cosco did not want to pass up on either site.

"(My office and Cosco) are working to have this project started promptly," Chua said. "I have reason to believe it could be within the year ... this is a very crucial investment (for both sides)."

In an earlier interview, Chua, who is also honorary president of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, said Cosco wanted to build a shipping hub at Sangley Point, because of its nearness to Manila, as well as in Subic, because it offers the best option for eventual expansion of operations.

Chua said that while Cosco was studying Sangley and Subic, local government executives in other provinces across the country also offered alternative sites for the project.

He also said that Cosco was prepared to foot the entire bill for the development of whichever site was chosen, including land reclamation and port construction.

Cosco needs about 50 to 100 hectares on which to build a pier and container yard.

Founded in 1961 as an international shipping carrier in China, Cosco is now a $17-billion corporation that provides services in freight forwarding, shipbuilding, ship repair, terminal operation, trade, financing, real estate and information technology.

Cosco owns and operates a merchant fleet of some 600 vessels, with total carrying capacity of up to 35 million dead-weight tons.

BSP expects '07 ...

From page B1

of $51.2 billion.

The export growth outlook was scaled down from 11 percent after the country's biggest export earner, the electronics sector, was forced to quote lower prices to sell their goods abroad. The sector reportedly had to cope with the steep price cuts caused by stiffer competition among high-tech manufacturers.

Although sales volume has not declined as global demand remained vibrant, earnings of local manufacturers have softened due to lower selling prices.

Exporters have also complained that the sharp appreciation of the peso against the US dollar this year have affected their competitiveness. The local currency, currently trading at the 47 level, has strengthened by over P2, or 5 percent, so far this year.

The BSP projected that the growth in the country's import bill would ease by 7 percent to $56.8 billion. Earlier, growth was projected to hit 11 percent.

The country's main electronics exports, like chips and semiconductors, are dependent on foreign-made materials. A slowdown in imports would mean a slowdown in exports.

Import expenses for this year were previously estimated by the BSP at $58.4 billion, resulting in a trade deficit of $7.2 billion—slightly higher than the $6.9 billion shortfall earlier predicted.

In its latest outlook, the BSP factored in the possible deterioration of the country's trade in goods position in the second semester. The country's actual trade deficit in the first semester hit only $776 million.

From January to June this year, total imports grew by 2.3 percent to $25.314 billion, while exports increased by 6.6 percent to $24.537 billion as against their respective year-ago figures.

But the BSP said the chronic trade deficit would not hinder the country from posting new record highs in its balance of payments and gross international reserves.

Remittances from overseas Filipino workers and an increase in foreign investments, particularly hot money going to local stocks and bonds, are seen to support the strong BOP and GIR buildup.

The BSP on Friday announced its revised outlook on the country's GIR and BOP. It said gross international reserves would hit $30 billion, while balance of payments could post a surplus of $6.3 billion by year's end.

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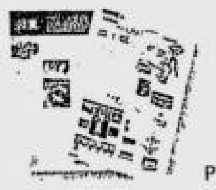

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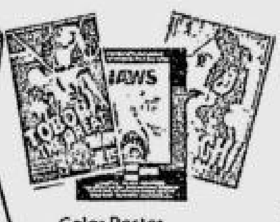

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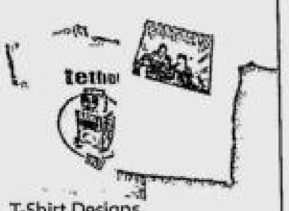

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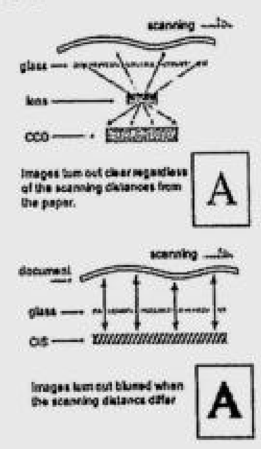
Scanner Shopping Tips

When it's time for you to invest in a document scanner, it pays to "look under the hood" to ensure that you get the best overall value for your money. Here are the key features that contribute to excellent image quality, speed, ease of use, and long scanner life.

Use of CCD Technology

CCD technology gives a scanner a deeper focal depth, that is, the ability to "see" the images on a document clearly, even in documents that have already been bent or creased due to normal wear and tear. Moreover, a high-quality CCD imaging sensor delivers vibrant color reproduction.



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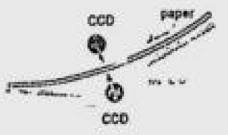
Save time and enhance efficiency with a scanner that captures both sides of a document in a single pass. This also simplifies the way the documents are handled and reduces the possibility of getting the various pages arranged in the wrong order.



Simple Maintenance and Durability

Make sure that the scanner you buy is very durable and easy to maintain, with consumable parts that can be easily replaced by the users themselves.

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Landbank to help raise small banks' capital base

Facility to buy unsecured subordinated debts to be issued by rural, thrift banks

By Doris C. Dumlao

STATE-OWNED LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES will invest P1 billion in a facility that will help beef up the capital base of small banks operating in the countryside.

Landbank launched on Friday the facility which would be used to buy unsecured subordinated debts to be issued by qualified rural banks, thrift banks and cooperative banks. These IOUs will be eligible as tier 2 or supplementary capital. The move is expected to help small banks raise their capital adequacy ratios and comply with stiffer international accounting standards.

Bank president Gilda Pico said the program, called unsecured denominated debt facility (USDF), was the bank's way of replicating its success in raising tier 2 capital.

Landbank issued in October last year $150 million worth of subordinated notes at a coupon rate of 7.5 percent, its first venture into the global capital market. The proceeds allowed the bank to boost its capital adequacy ratio to 19 percent.

"With the success of our issuance last year, we thought it best to share this experience with our partner financial institutions in the countryside," Pico said.

"We expect the USDF to help beef up the capital base of our partner CFIs and enable them to more effectively carry on with their role as catalysts of change in their respective communities," she explained.

Five CFIs were the first to sign a memorandum of understanding with Landbank for the use of this new facility. These are GM Bank in Nueva Ecija, First Valley Bank of Lanao del Norte, the Philippine Rural Banking Corp. in Cauayan, Isabela, the Green Bank in Butuan City and the Producers Rural Banking Corp. in Nueva Ecija.

The launch was held during the awarding ceremonies for five CFIs picked by Landbank as its outstanding partners in extending credit to priority sectors—farmers and fisherfolk, small and medium enterprises and microenterprises.

The top five CFIs were: First Agro-Industrial Rural Bank in Cebu; Philippine Rural Banking Corp. in Isabela; People's Bank of Caraga Inc. in Agusan del Sur; Rural Bank of Mabitac in Laguna, and Rural Bank of Digos in Davao del Sur.

The Rural Bank of Pola in Oriental Mindoro and the First Valley Inc. of Lanao del Norte were elevated to the Hall of Fame this year.

"We work closely with the CFIs in providing the much-needed resources to marginalized sectors, particularly farmers and fisherfolk and microentrepreneurs, which have limited access to credit assistance," Pico said.

Seed producers eye export markets

By Amy R. Remo

THE LOCAL SEED INDUSTRY EXPECTS TO grab a bigger share of the $34-billion global market for seeds through the staging of the 2007 Asian Seed Congress in the country in November.

With the theme "Cultivating Ties for Quality Seeds & Bountiful Harvests," the event is organized by the Philippine Seed Industry Association, the Department of Agriculture and The Asia Pacific Seed Association to bring to the country the latest in seed technology.

Mary Ann P. Sayoc, general manager of East-West Seed, said the export market was largely untapped by local exporters. She said country exports only about 10 percent of its seed output.

Bulacan-based East-West Seed is a multinational vegetable seed producer. It produces, develops and sells tropical hybrid vegetable seeds.

PSIA president Willy U. Co said the event would pave the way for the forging of business deals and the exchange of seed technology.

"With increased local activity and investments in the seed industry, our farmers would have more choices of seeds and technologies. They will be able to choose the ones that are best suited for their farms," Co said.

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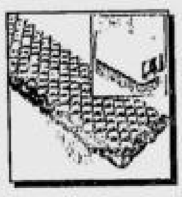

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Teves may order review of tax on BAT cigarettes

Finance chief just awaiting formal appeal

By Michelle V. Remo

FINANCE SECRETARY Margarito Teves said he was willing to order a review of a move to lower the excise tax on Pall Mall cigarettes of British American Tobacco (BAT).

"[The Department of Finance] may order a review of the lowering of the tax if anyone will make an appeal on the decision," Teves said.

The finance chief said the reduction in the excise tax on Pall Mall, from P26 to P6 per pack, was based on a recommendation by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, under then Revenue Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag.

The DOF approved the tax cut upon the endorsement of Finance Undersecretary Gaudencio Mendoza Jr., head of the DOF legal team.

Pall Mall was recently revived in the local market by British Americal Tobacco. Under the law, old cigarette brands are charged lower excise tax rates.

A provision in the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997 contains the cigarette brands and the corresponding tax rates. Brands that came out after the Tax Code was put in place, or the so-called new brands, are covered by tax rates based on current market prices.

BAT won the endorsement of the BIR by insisting that it was an old brand and, therefore, should not be slapped the higher excise tax of P26 per pack.

The decision of the BIR to lower the excise tax on Pall Mall to only P6 per pack, however, caught the attention of Congress.

Rep. Exequiel Javier of Antique was quoted in reports as saying he would call for a review of the excise tax rates on cigarettes and the way revenue authorities implement the excise tax law.

Critics said the country's system of taxing cigarettes was flawed since it favored old brands. Although the government in 2005 passed the Sin Tax Law, which mandated an increase in the excise tax rates, it did not address the inequality in taxation between old and new brands, as the latter are still charged higher rates.

The Sin Tax Law has been unable to meet the government's target of raising its revenue collection from cigarette and alcohol manufacturers through the imposition of higher tax rates.

The excise tax collection of the BIR reached only P24.49 billion in the first half, 14.7-percent lower than year-ago's P28.72 billion.

The latest excise tax collection figure also fell short by 2 percent of the P26.42-billion target for the six-month period.

Although the decline was partly attributed to the shift in consumers' preference to cheaper cigarettes, the BIR said it could also be due to under declaration of production by manufacturers.

Excise taxes should be paid before the products are taken out of factories. Products whose taxes have already been paid are marked by tax personnel with a seal.

But Revenue Deputy Commissioner Nelson Aspe earlier said some cigarette makers were suspected to be using fake seals just to avoid paying the proper taxes.

This is why the BIR is preparing an improved system of auditing the tax compliance of cigarette makers, he said.

PRCI owners urged to disclose deals

THE MINORITY SHAREHOLDERS of Philippine Racing Club Inc. called on the majority stakeholders of the firm to "produce and open to public scrutiny all the documents and details related to the controversial purchase of JTH Davies Holdings and the bid to swap the ownership of the Sta. Ana racetrack with shares of that company."

The group made the call following a move by the majority shareholders to quash a subpoena *duces tecum* issued by the Makati Regional Trial Court in its petition before the Court of Appeals.

The subpoena directed the majority shareholders to present the documents pertaining to the two deals.

The minority shareholders of PRCI earlier moved to stop the swap deal that would have transferred the ownership of the Sta. Ana racetrack to another company in exchange for shares in JTH Davies Holdings.

Lawyer Brigido Dulay Jr., spokesperson for the minority shareholders, said the move to quash the subpoena issued by the lower court "is a clear admission that the majority shareholders do not wish to bare the truth behind the questioned deals".

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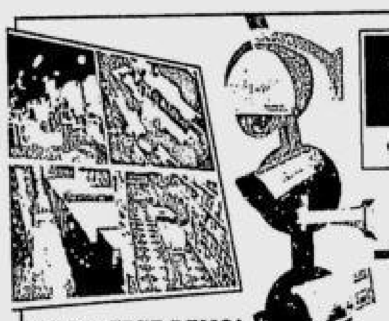

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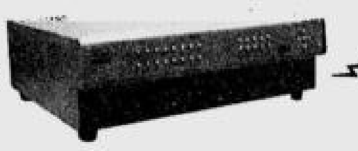

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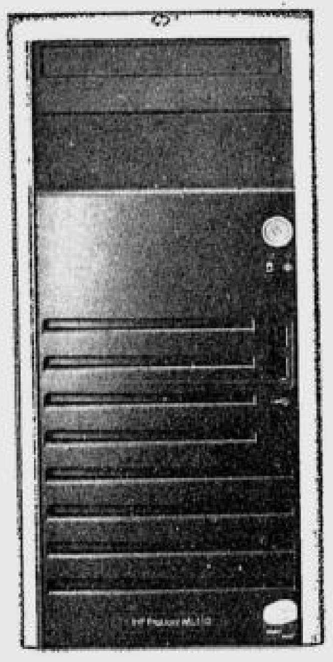

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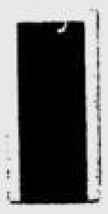

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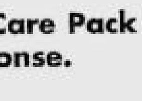

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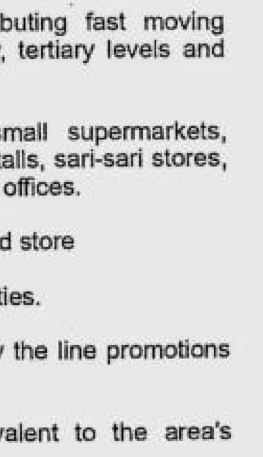

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Record ₱82.93B in equity raised as of Aug, PSE says

Exchange sees figure going up to P100B by yearend

By Daxim L. Lucas

COMPANIES RAISED A RECORD amount of equity capital through the local bourse in the first eight months of the year, taking advantage of strong investor appetite during the period, the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) said.

The PSE said that funds generated from various capital-raising activities reached P82.93 billion as of August, exceeding the previous record of P57.22 billion raised through the stock market in 2006.

"What is more remarkable about the new record high is that we did it in just eight months," PSE president Francis Lim said in a statement.

He said that the bourse and corporate regulators were still processing several applications for fund-raising activities by firms, which could see the total amount top the P100-billion level this year.

"It's going to be another record-breaking level, because we have never compiled that much in offering proceeds in a single year," he added, "Such a feat reflects the bullish sentiment of investors who are behind the market's overall advance."

Stock prices, as tracked by the PSE index (PSEi), began breaking new ground when it set a then-historic high of 3,449.18 last May 18, 2007, erasing the previous record high of 3,447.60 points set on Feb. 3, 1997.

On July 5, it reached the current all-time high of 3,791.42 points.

The market soon after corrected sharply as an offshoot of concerns over the US subprime mortgage market.

Last August 16, the PSEi fell to 2,942.31 points, wiping out all gains for the year. It fell further to 2,884.34 points the following day to suffer its lowest close for the year.

Another day later, however, the PSEi staged a strong rebound, closing 283.18 points higher, marking the biggest point gain in a single day by the index.

At the end of August, the PSEi closed at 3,365.29 points or 12.8 percent higher than its 2,982.54-point level in 2006.

"I think many companies share my optimism about our market's ability to rebound," Lim said. "That explains why we still have several listing applications pending before us."

The PSE said that seven firms listed during the period, with six of them conducting initial public offerings, which raised P15.62 billion in fresh capital.

The amount was 69 percent more than the P9.24-billion level recorded for the same period last year.

Aboitiz Power Corp. raised the largest amount from an IPO at P10.08 billion, followed by National Reinsurance Corporation of the Philippines at P2.82 billion.

The other IPO firms were GMA Network Inc. (P1.55 billion), Anchor Land Holdings Inc. (P773.93 million), Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc. (P284.2 million) and Pacific Online Systems Corp. (P104.78 million).

The seventh firm that went public, Vista Land & Lifescapes Inc., opted to list by way of introduction.

Equity from follow-on offerings of six companies amounted to P46.75 billion, almost triple its P16.24-billion level for the corresponding period last year and 57 percent more than the P29.7 billion chalked up for the whole of 2006.

Vista Land pooled the biggest amount from a follow-on offering at P14.52 billion, followed by Alliance Global Group Inc. at P10.35 billion. Other firms that completed follow-on offerings during the period were Filinvest Land Inc. (P5.92 billion), Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. (P5.67 billion), Philippine National Bank (P5.25 billion) and Union Bank of the Philippines (P5.04 billion.)

Capital from stock rights offerings of eight companies hit P15.76 billion or 21 times more than P751.95-million mark a year ago and seven times larger than the P2.28-billion level for 2006.

Megaworld Properties and Holdings Inc. accounted for the biggest proceeds from stock rights offerings at P10.79 billion.

In addition to follow-on offerings, Alliance Global raised P3.3 billion, while UBP pooled P265.5 million, via stock rights offerings.

The other firms that raised capital via stock rights offerings include Geograce Resources Philippines Inc. (P560.46 million), EEI Corp. (P540 million) and ISM Communications Corp. (P300 million).

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STA. ELENA A	1,900,000	PLS. CALL
SUBIC BAY GOLF CLUB	100,000	PLS. CALL
SUMMIT POINT	350,000	PLS. CALL
TAGAYTAY COUNTRY CLUB	350,000	PLS. CALL
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	PLS. CALL	PLS. CALL
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS		650,000
THE PALMS IND	380,000	PLS. CALL
TOWER CLUB IND.	200,000	100,000
VALLEY GOLF	PLS. CALL	220,000
VALLE VERDE	90,000	PLS. CALL
WACK WACK	PLS. CALL	PLS. CALL

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GG&A Club Shares
SEC License Broker No.: BD-00131
Quotation as of September 3, 2007

CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	1,250,000	1,050,000
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	1,250,000	1,050,000
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	600,000	550,000
CAMP JOHN HAY	330,000	300,000
CANLUBANG	500,000	450,000
CAPITOL HILLS	40,000	-
CEBU COUNTRY CLUB	-	2,000,000
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	120,000	100,000
CLUB FILIPINO	120,000	90,000
EAGLERIDGE "A"	180,000	150,000
EAGLERIDGE "B"	250,000	-
EAGLERIDGE "C"	350,000	-
FOREST HILLS "A"	90,000	80,000
LUISITA GOLF "A"	330,000	270,000
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	220,000	200,000
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	250,000	230,000
MANILA GOLF (CORP)	25,500,000	20,000,000
MANILA GOLF (IND)	Please Call	18,000,000
MANILA POLO	-	4,500,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	300,000	280,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "B"	650,000	-
MANILA YACHT CLUB	200,000	-
MIMOSA (IND)	220,000	-
MT. MALARAYAT GOLD "A"	160,000	100,000
ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "A"	170,000	150,000
ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "B"	300,000	280,000
ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "C"	330,000	-
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	170,000	130,000
ROCKWELL CLUB	350,000	250,000
SPA & LODGE	500,000	450,000
STA. ELENA "A"	1,900,000	1,700,000
STA. ELENA "B"	2,300,000	2,050,000
TAGAYTAY COUNTRY CLUB	320,000	300,000
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	700,000	650,000
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	650,000	630,000
THE PALMS COUNTRY CLUB "A"	360,000	320,000
VALLE VERDE (IND)	100,000	80,000
VALLEY GOLF	Please Call	210,000
WACK WACK GOLF CLUB	10,000,000	Please Call

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CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club A/B*	Pls. Call/1,250,000*	1,080,000
Alta Vista A/B*/Corp.**	-	280,000/Pls. Call*
Baguio Country Club	600,000	550,000
Camp John Hay	330,000	280,000
Canlubang Golf	Pls. Call	440,000
Canyon Woods	90,000	-
Cebu Country Club	Pls. Call	2,000,000
Club Filipino	90,000	Pls. Call
Eagleridge A/B*/C**	Pls. Call*	200,000*
Eastridge A/B*	130,000	Pls. Call
Fairways & Bluewater	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	90,000/180,000*	Pls. Call
Luisita Golf B	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Manila Golf Corporate	24,000,000	20,000,000
Manila Golf Individual	Pls. Call	18,000,000
Manila Polo	Pls. Call	4,500,000
Manila Southwoods A/B*	300,000/Pls. Call*	250,000
Makati Sports Club A/B*	200,000/230,000*	180,000
Manila Yacht Club Ind.	280,000	150,000
Metropolitan Club A/B*	160,000	-
Mimosa C1/C2*/C3**	220,000/680,000**	180,000/280,000*
Mt. Malarayat A	180,000	-
Orchard A/B*/C**	170,000/250,000*/350,000**	-
Punta Fuego	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Quezon City Sports Club	170,000	130,000
Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	170,000*/250,000**	130,000*/150,000**
Rockwell Leisure Club	Pls. Call	230,000
Royale Tagaytay CC	65,000	-
Sherwood A/B*/C**	70,000/170,000*	100,000*
Splendido Taal	200,000	Pls. Call
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	Pls. Call	1,600,000
The Palms Country Club	380,000	Pls. Call
Tagaytay Country Club	320,000	-
Tagaytay Highlands	700,000	650,000
Tagaytay Midlands	670,000	630,000
The Country Club	2,200,000	-
Tower Club A/B*	180,000	-
Valley Golf	250,000	220,000
Valle Verde Ind.	100,000	-
Wack Wack Golf	Pls. Call	9,500,000

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Lafayette earns ISO seal

RAPU RAPU PROcessing Inc. has secured an ISO 14001: 2004 certification for its environmental management systems.

The ISO 14001: 2004 certification recognizes the environmental safeguards, procedures and management systems in place at the company's processing plant in Rapu Rapu, Albay.

It also requires the company to submit itself to periodic audits by an independent team to make sure it remains compliant with all ISO requirements.

Carlos G. Dominguez, chair of Lafayette Philippines, said, "This certification proves our company's commitment to responsible mining and environmental protection. Our management team that took over the Rapu Rapu project in January 2006 fully committed itself to obtaining this certification."

Certification International Philippines Inc. (Cipi), a third-party ISO certification body, recommended the certification after RRPI met all the ISO 14001: 2004 requirements in the two-stage certification audit in May and July.

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Aug. 31, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	SEC NAME	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	5.4	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	9.2	9.7	9.2	9.7	61,000
73	36	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	56.5	57	56	56.5	1,276,000
73.5	52.5	Bank of the Philippine Islands	60	60.5	60	60.5	2,823,800
935	630	China Banking Corp.	820	820	815	820	8,870
23.5	18.5	Citystate Savings Bank	23	23	23	23	600
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank, Inc	0.41	0.41	0.4	0.4	530,000
75.5	37	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	55	56.5	55	55	4,236,700
65.5	33	Philippine National Bank	46.5	49	46.5	48	934,600
39.57	14.57	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	24.5	24.75	24.5	24.5	1,473,800
90	49	Security Bank Corp.	71.5	73.5	71.5	72	285,700
66	42.53	Union Bank of the Philippines	55	55	54	54	2,200
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
5.6	1.76	ATR KimEng Financial Corp.	3.8	3.85	3.55	3.8	137,000
2.14	0.6	Bankard Inc.	2.12	2.14	2.08	2.14	10,843,000
16.25	2.22	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	10.5	11	10.5	11	461,200
1.6	0.4	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	0.86	0.99	0.82	0.99	730,000
1,730.00	1,555.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,730.00	1,730.00	1,730.00	1,730.00	400
5	2.95	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3.25	3.45	3.25	3.35	8,346,000
3.1	1	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	1.84	1.84	1.8	1.8	1,234,000
1,005.00	220	The Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc	750	760	720	760	80,400
2,250.00	1,945.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,220.00	2,235.00	2,220.00	2,235.00	860
1.94	1.3	iVantage Corp.	1.46	1.5	1.46	1.5	660,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp.	5.1	5.4	5.1	5.4	7,458,000
0.57	0.23	East Asia Power Resources Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.27	1,350,000
70	44.5	First Gen Corp.	64.5	65	64	64.5	416,900
92	42	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	79.5	79.5	78	79.5	921,000
15	8.8	Manila Water Co. Inc.	14.5	14.5	14	14.5	2,470,100
116	16.5	Manila Electric Co. "A"	100	103	99	103	730,500
118	26.5	Manila Electric Co. "B"	99	104	99	104	1,936,870
7	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	6.4	6.5	6.3	6.5	11,929,000
6.5	3.75	Petron Corp.	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.7	6,555,000
14.75	6.7	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	7.8	7.8	7.3	7.5	269,000
1.9	0.92	Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp.	1.18	1.22	1.18	1.22	764,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	2.95	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.1	1,425,000
2.95	1.86	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	2	2.04	1.96	1.98	470,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	24	24	24	24	46,500
61	32	Jollibee Foods Corp.	54	54.5	52.5	54.5	1,557,300
9	4.7	Pancake House Inc.	9	9	8.8	8.8	45,000
1.96	0.78	RFM Corp.	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.66	1,206,000
3.9	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.24	2.26	2.24	2.24	433,000
80	59	San Miguel Corp. "A"	63.5	64	63.5	63.5	475,300
88	60	San Miguel Corp. "B"	67	68.5	67	68.5	691,200
0.66	0.22	Swift Foods Inc.	0.51	0.52	0.51	0.52	20,000
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp.	16.5	16.5	16.25	16.25	1,174,700
0.55	0.205	Vitarich Corp.	0.36	0.38	0.36	0.38	360,000
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	1.59	EEI Corp.	4.7	4.7	4.55	4.7	1,173,000
9.2	4.7	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8	8.2	7.9	8	3,469,000
7	1.28	Republic Cement Corp.	4.15	4.2	4.05	4.1	183,000
2	0.27	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1.24	1.34	1.24	1.26	66,119,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.1	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	4.25	4.3	4.2	4.25	1,123,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.75	0.1	Picop Resources Inc.	0.36	0.37	0.35	0.36	17,080,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
0.17	0.025	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.085	0.0875	0.085	0.0875	14,400,000
1.28	0.21	APC Group Inc.	0.59	0.63	0.59	0.62	13,910,000
3.6	1.4	ATN Holdings Inc. "A"	3.1	3.25	3.1	3.25	1,318,000
3.7	1.48	ATN Holdings Inc. "B"	3.35	3.4	3.35	3.35	463,000
0.018	0.007	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. "A"	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	41,000,000
9.7	4.85	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	6.6	6.7	6.5	6.5	3,544,000
0.021	0.0075	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.013	175,500,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5.1	5.6	5.1	5.6	36,423,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2	2.2	1.98	2.2	5,761,000
590	360.42	Ayala Corp.	477.5	497.5	475	492.5	333,160
14.5	7.04	Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	20,000
5.8	1.08	Benpres Holdings Corp.	4.3	4.4	4.2	4.4	21,562,000
10.25	3.25	DMCI Holdings Inc.	8.2	8.3	8.1	8.3	476,000
6.9	1.02	Eton Properties Philippines Inc.	4	4.45	4	4.2	336,000
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	5.6	5.9	5.6	5.9	1,835,000
3.55	1.16	House of Investments Inc.	1.84	1.94	1.84	1.86	1,793,000
14.5	5.7	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	9.9	9.9	9.7	9.8	73,000
5.9	0.61	Jolliville Holdings Corp.	1.72	1.76	1.7	1.7	266,000
11.5	0.98	Multitech Investments Corp.	4.85	5	4.75	4.9	5,718,000
8.2	2.8	PAL Holdings Inc.	6.1	7	6.1	6.8	946,000
1.54	0.78	Prime Media Holdings Inc.	0.85	0.94	0.85	0.94	190,000
0.75	0.17	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.39	0.43	0.39	0.43	4,790,000
2.1	1.2	Republic Glass Holdings Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	176,000
452.5	208.11	SM Investments Corp.	352.5	377.5	352.5	370	104,570
0.73	0.125	Sinophil Corp.	0.33	0.36	0.33	0.34	12,990,000
1.6	0.88	South China Resources Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	350,000
23	1	TKC Steel Corp.	19	19.25	19	19.25	7,800
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.33	0.35	0.33	0.33	18,540,000
		PROPERTY					
2.34	0.78	A Brown Co. Inc.	1.3	1.44	1.3	1.44	1,512,000
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings, Inc	6.9	7	6.8	7	130,000
1.06	0.32	Araneta Properties Inc.	0.7	0.72	0.7	0.72	290,000
19.25	11.04	Ayala Land Inc.	14	14.5	14	14.5	18,055,500
1.88	0.99	Belle Corp.	1.14	1.16	1.14	1.16	8,463,000
4.7	2.26	Cebu Holdings Inc.	3.8	3.9	3.75	3.9	143,000
0.86	0.29	Crown Equities Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.61	0.61	720,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.43	0.47	0.43	0.47	1,130,000
0.99	0.48	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.7	0.7	6,950,000
0.47	0.048	Ever Gotesco Resources and Hold'gs Inc.	0.225	0.23	0.225	0.23	10,730,000
1.48	0.43	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.2	1.24	1.18	1.2	22,270,000
2.44	1.07	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.58	1.58	1.52	1.58	31,289,000
2.9	0.85	Keppel Philippines Properties Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1,000
1.12	0.24	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.59	0.6	0.58	0.6	10,960,000
4.4	1.56	Megaworld Corp.	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.5	12,174,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.1	4.1	3.8	4	45,000
0.7	0.125	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.33	0.34	1,000,000
0.87	0.32	Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.43	0.45	0.43	0.44	1,360,000
9.2	1.1	Polar Property Holdings Corp.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	10,000
23	12.5	Robinson Land Corp.	17.25	18	17.25	18	723,800
5.9	1.37	SM Development Corp.	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.1	1,871,000
13.5	6.24	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	11.75	12.25	11.75	12	13,191,000
3.25	0.82	Shang Properties Inc.	2.7	2.8	2.65	2.7	420,000
1.34	0.46	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.58	0.63	0.57	0.63	6,380,000
0.49	0.08	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.27	2,180,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc.	5	5	4.95	5	21,372,000
		MEDIA					
38.5	16	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	31	32	30	32	148,500
11.75	8.7	GMA Network Inc.	10	10.25	9.9	10	1,253,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.24	1.24	3,134,000
1,445.00	975	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,330.00	1,380.00	1,330.00	1,375.00	96,940
2,820.00	1,900.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	2,650.00	2,660.00	2,650.00	2,655.00	123,160
7.9	3.75	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	6.8	7.1	6.8	7.1	6,193,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	1,000,000
12	2	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	9.8	9.9	9.7	9.7	10,000
11.5	2	IPVG Corp.	8.7	9.1	8.7	9.1	1,997,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.031	0.031	0.03	0.03	11,000,000
2.9	1.6	Ionics Inc.	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	403,000
0.32	0.043	Island Information and Technology Inc.	0.185	0.19	0.18	0.185	47,500,000
0.0725	0.027	PhilWeb.Com Inc.	0.049	0.05	0.048	0.05	43,700,000
5.8	1	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l. Inc	2.5	2.5	2.46	2.5	535,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
1.92	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.78	1.9	1.78	1.9	1,576,000
6.8	3.05	Asian Terminals Inc.	4	4	4	4	173,000
34.5	14.75	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	31	33	31	32.5	5,892,800
2.16	0.93	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	1.9	1.96	1.9	1.96	80,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.66	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	2.9	2.95	2.8	2.95	223,000
0.98	0.3	Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc.	0.51	0.54	0.51	0.53	1,870,000
1.2	0.42	Waterfront Philippines Inc.	0.79	0.8	0.78	0.79	2,480,000
		EDUCATION					
950	650	Far Eastern University Inc.	870	870	870	870	60
3.7	2.6	iPeople Inc.	2.65	2.65	2.6	2.6	200,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
6	1.9	Macroasia Corp.	4.3	4.45	4.3	4.3	875,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	11.75	12	11.75	12	392,500
30	9.9	Paxys Inc.	15	15	14.5	14.75	825,600
		MINING					
0.018	0.0085	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	16,000,000
7.6	3.6	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	10,000
21.25	7.7	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	13	14	13	14	2,438,200
3.1	0.33	GEOGRACE Resources Philippines Inc.	1.48	1.56	1.46	1.56	77,295,000
0.35	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	21,510,000
0.42	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.26	6,000,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.021	0.021	0.02	0.021	22,600,000
0.041	0.019	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.023	0.024	0.023	0.024	17,300,000
30	1.2	NIHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc.	11.25	11.5	10.75	11.25	1,635,300
0.021	0.0079	Omico Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	82,600,000
6.4	3.15	Philex Mining Corp.	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.7	8,643,000
43	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	25,000
1.36	0.39	United Paragon Mining Corp.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	10,000
1.8	0.56	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.18	1.2	5,730,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Petroleum Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.34	2,950,000
0.025	0.0095	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "A"	0.02	0.021	0.02	0.021	247,800,000
0.027	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "B"	0.021	0.023	0.021	0.023	102,300,000
12.25	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	7,000
0.028	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.02	0.022	0.02	0.022	577,200,000

AVERAGES			VOLUME	
Financial	866.02 UP	2.52	34,126,130	709,969,205.00
Industrial	4,768.36 UP	63.34	131,851,370	888,623,770.00
Holding Firms	1,887.13 UP	44.46	362,817,730	610,587,770.00
Property	1,538.62 UP	28.78	173,370,300	700,213,620.00
Service	1,599.26 UP	16.04	131,681,560	774,848,490.00
Mining & Oil	5,674.49 UP	170.00	1,192,053,500	254,175,070.00
All Shares Index	2,145.62 UP	35.62		
PSEi	3,365.29 UP	44.95		
		GRAND TOTALS	2,025,900,590	3,938,417,925.00

COMPILED BY SCHATZI QUODALA, INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK, PSE

Extraordinary growth

THE RELEASE LAST WEEK OF the GNP/GDP growth figures for the second quarter of 2007 was again met with the same mixture of surprise, disbelief and skepticism that greeted the 6.9-percent first quarter GDP growth announced last May.

No Free Lunch

Cielito F. Habito

The reported 7.5-percent growth in gross domestic product (GDP) in the second quarter over the year-ago figure is the highest our economy has achieved in the last 20 years. It is also better than that achieved by most of our neighbors, exceeded only by Singapore's 8.6-percent and China's 11.6-percent GDP growth rates.

Same questions

But why is it that rather than rejoice and congratulate ourselves over the pleasantly surprising news, the common reaction seems to be one of disbelief and skepticism? Have we Filipinos become too accustomed to failure that we cannot deal with success? Or have we become so accustomed to cheating and incompetence that even the economic growth statistics cannot be exempt from suspicion of fraud, manipulation or plain inaccuracy?

The same questions people asked in the first quarter are thus being asked all over again: Is the 7.5-percent growth rate too good to be true? And granted that it is true, is it too good to last? Can it be sustained?

The first question posed in somewhat different words by a journalist provoked a display of the famous presidential temper last week. But can the numbers indeed be believed, or relied upon with confidence?

Statistical review

Being official data coming out of the government statistical system, one must presume that they are (1) unbiased, honest data generated by independent professionals with no political agenda, and (2) based on the best data and statistical methodologies available to the government. I believe we can safely assume the former. On the latter, however, the problem is that the best data and statistical methodologies currently at the disposal of the government may now be far from the best that one can get. The quality of data generated by the Philippine Statistical System (PSS) has lately been put to severe question by users of the data and especially by senior statistical experts. They point out that the system has not undergone any serious review and update in the last two decades, when so much has changed both in the state of the art in statistical methods and in the complex nature of the social and economic system that is being measured.

For this reason, a special high-level panel of experts commissioned by the government is currently undertaking a thorough review of the PSS. Initial findings of the panel suggest serious shortcomings in the technical capability of the statistical agencies, manifested, among other things, by a glaring lack or outright absence of advanced degree holders in statistics in the most critical statistical agencies. There are also serious questions on the methods being employed to generate the data. All these make the "too good to be true" question more than an opposition critic's nuisance reaction.

Government driven

A closer examination of the growth data helps in answering the second question pertaining to sustainability of the growth. One must first ask what led the economy to grow much faster than the 5-6 percent that most analysts had been expecting. This is a matter of simple arithmetic. One only needs to identify the components of the economy that grew faster than 5-6 percent, because these must have been responsible for pulling up the growth to the surprising level we are seeing.

From the expenditure or demand side, it was only government consumption spending (13.5 percent) and capital formation via construction (18.9 percent) that grew extraordinarily fast. The overall construction growth was actually dominated by government construction, which grew 39.6 percent against an anemic 2.5 percent growth in private construction. The other two remaining major components of demand, such as personal consumption and exports, grew by 6 percent and 4.2 percent, respectively, and thus could not explain the extraordinary growth. It is thus clear that the extraordinary growth of the economy in the first half was provoked by extraordinary government spending, induced mainly by the May elections.

Will it last?

Will government spending continue on a fast clip to provoke the same extraordinary production growth? The election impetus for increased government spending is no longer there, so this now largely hinges on government finances—and recent revenue performance doesn't provide much basis for confidence here. Will exports accelerate to provide the sustained push? The global slowdown being provoked by adverse market developments and US economic difficulties makes it unlikely. Can private consumption further accelerate to the 7-8 percent range? Given our historical consumption growth experience, such growth rates are well beyond realistic bounds. Nor is it desirable for our growth to be even more dominated by private consumption than already is.

Will overall investment growth other than public construction get out of its lethargy seen over the last two years? This, to me, is the key. If massive government spending on infrastructure gets sustained and eventually pump-primes private investment spending, then we may still be able to ramp up to a new and higher growth plane. But if persistent weaknesses in governance continue to get in the way of business confidence, then no amount of new infrastructure spending will stimulate more durable private investment growth at the rates needed to sustain 7.5-percent growth or higher.

Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu.

Maybank

CURRENCIES

August 32, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.731154	1.000000	46.9040
Japan	Yen	0.006292	0.008606	0.4037
United Kingdom	Pound	1.475104	2.017500	94.6288
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.093697	0.128149	6.0107
Switzerland	Franc	0.609651	0.833820	39.1095
Canada	Dollar	0.690355	0.944198	44.2867
Singapore	Dollar	0.480991	0.657851	30.8558
Australia	Dollar	0.597788	0.817595	38.3485
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.939607	2.652801	124.4270
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.194948	0.266631	12.5061
Brunei	Dollar	0.479414	0.655695	30.7547
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000078	0.000106	0.0050
Thailand	Baht	0.022497	0.030769	1.4432
UAE	Dirham	0.199073	0.272272	12.7706
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.367700	64.1506
Korea	Won	0.000776	0.001062	0.0498
China	Yuan**	0.096858	0.132473	6.2135
Denmark	Kroner	0.134293	0.183672	8.6150
India	Rupee	0.017855	0.024420	1.1454
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.208782	0.285551	13.3935
New Zealand	Dollar	0.513271	0.702001	32.9267
Sweden	Kroner	0.106788	0.146054	6.8505
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.022120	0.030253	1.4190

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Aug. 30, 2007

* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen. ** Asian time closing rate as of Aug. 30, 2007

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BSP approves Metrobank plan to raise tier 2 capital

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS has given Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. the go-signal to offer P10 billion worth of subordinated notes, which will qualify as tier 2 or supplementary capital.

Nestor Espenilla Jr., BSP Deputy Governor for bank supervision and examination, said the BSP's policy-board Monetary Board had approved the issuance of the subordinated debt during its meeting last Thursday.

Metrobank president Arthur Ty said the fund-raising exercise would be pursued most likely in September or October this year. Proceeds will be used to refinance maturing obligations.

Ty said it was deemed practical to issue peso-denominated bonds at this time "to eliminate any foreign exchange differential vis-à-vis the refinancing requirements."

He said the environment was not too favorable for an offshore bond float at this time.

Offshore investors are currently paring down their exposure in emerging markets, including the Philippines, due to concerns over the worsening credit crunch in the United States which was caused by increasing delinquency among high-risk or subprime housing borrowers.

London-based credit watchdog Fitch Ratings last week upgraded the rating of Metrobank's outstanding long-term foreign currency debts from "BB-" to "BB" with a stable outlook.

The credit ratings agency cited Metrobank's improving balance sheet position and underlying profitability, together with leadership advantages, as the reasons for the upgrade.

"This ratings upgrade validates our strategies to strengthen both our balance sheet and profitability. Given the improving economic fundamentals and the positive interest rate environment, we will continue to focus on growing our business, and at the same time seek opportunities to reduce our nonperforming assets," Ty said.

Metrobank reported a 34-percent increase in its year-on-year first half profit to P3.7 billion from P2.75 billion in 2006. It also reported an improvement in nonperforming loans ratio to 6.9 percent at the end of 2006 from the 9.6-percent level in December 2005.

In the meantime, Metrobank's $125-million Tier 1 subordinated notes was upgraded to "B" from "B-," with the outstanding short-term foreign currency debts affirmed at "B."

The bank's consolidated assets reached P669.3 billion as of end-June 2007. Consolidated total deposits stood at P503.1 billion while total net loans amounted to P277.6 billion for the same period. It has more than 800 international and domestic branches, offices, subsidiaries and affiliates.

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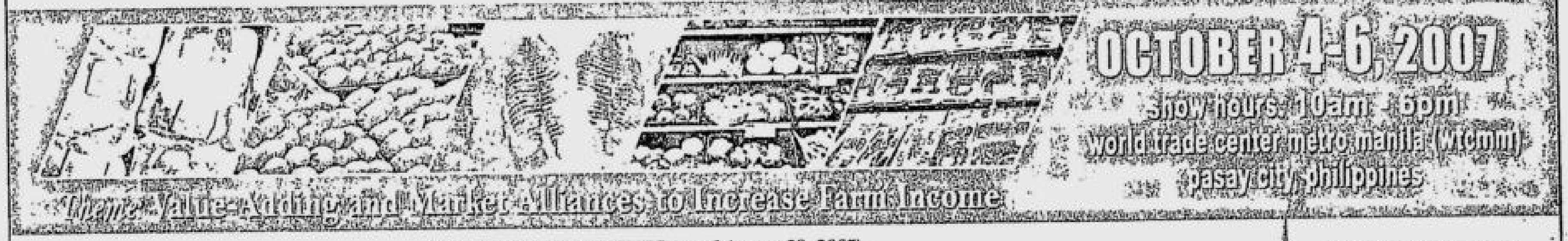

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pasay city, philippines

Theme: Value-Adding and Market Alliances to Increase Farm Income

SEMINARS AND EVENTS (as of August 29, 2007)

October 4, 2007 (Thursday)

Special Events (WTCMM Lobby):

1:00pm - 3:00pm Product Launching *by:* Univet Agricultural Products
3:30pm - 5:00pm Cooking Demonstration *by:* Organic Producers Trade Assoc.

October 5, 2007 (Friday)

Seminars (Hall A, WTCMM):

10:30am - 3:00pm
- Management of Sows & Piglets
- Growing the Future - Richel Greenhouses

by: French Le Club *(Seminar Rm. 1)*

10:30am - 12:30pm Monitoring & Evaluating the Socio-Economic Impact of BT Corn in the Philippines *by:* Monsanto Phils. *(Seminar Rm. 3)*

1:00pm - 3:00pm
- Nutritional Strategies to Prevent Scouring in Piglets
- Biosecurity Measures During Disease Outbreak
- Using the Right Blend

by: Univet *(Seminar Rm. 2)*

Technological Trends in Organic Farming & International Organic Certification *by:* Herbana Farms *(Seminar Rm. 3)*

3:00pm - 5:00pm The Essentials of Managing Common Pig Diseases at Herd Level *by:* San Miguel Foods, Inc. *(Seminar Rm. 2)*

High Productivity as a Result of an Optimum Climate *by:* SKOV *(Seminar Rm. 3)*

Special Events (WTCMM Lobby):

10:30am - 5:00pm *Sponsored by:* San Miguel Foods, Inc.

October 6, 2007 (Saturday)

Seminars (Hall A, WTCMM):

10:30am - 12:30pm Pangasius World Trends & Management Opportunities *by:* Vitarich Corp. *(Seminar Rm. 2)*
- Indigenous Plants for Health & Wellness
- Avocado & Coconut-Based Products
- Essential Oils
- Malungay Juice

by: Bureau of Agricultural Research *(Seminar Rm. 3)*

1:00pm - 3:00pm
- Philippine Fisheries Investment Environment *by:* Bureau of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources
- Farming of Sea Cucumber, Sea Horse & Abalone *by:* SEAFDEC-AQD
- Farming of Sea Urchin *by:* Bureau of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources *(Seminar Rm. 2)*
- Temperature Management (Including Non-Refrigerated Techniques) Along the Supply Chain to the Supermarket
- Ensuring Quality & Safety of Fresh Produce in Supermarkets

by: Postharvest Horticulture Training & Research *(Seminar Rm. 3)*

3:00pm - 5:00pm
- Economics of Goat Raising
- Goat & Sheep Marketing
- Forage & Pasture Development
- Health & Nutrition

by: Federation of Goat & Sheep Producers & Assoc. *(Seminar Rm. 1)*

- Ornamental Fish Raising or Farming of Red Tilapia
- Modular Cage Farming of Bangus
- Pond Polyculture of Caranx, Grouper, Red Snapper & Siganid with Bangus

by: Bureau of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources *(Seminar Rm. 2)*

The Organic Challenge:
- The Baras Town, Rizal Achievement in Becoming the 1st Organic Town in the Philippines
- Updates in the Organic and Slowfood Movements
- Earthworms in Your Organic Farm

by: Organic Producers Trade Assoc. *(Seminar Rm. 3)*

Special Events (WTCMM Lobby):

10:30am - 12:00nn Agri-Kapihan Forum *by:* Agri-Aqua Network Int'l.
1:00pm - 3:00pm Cooking Demonstration "Megarantisadong Sarap" *by:* Mega Fishing
3:30pm - 5:00pm Cooking Demonstration Application of Organic Fiber in Meat Processing for Value Added Products *by:* Bureau of Animal Industry

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Canadian mining firm expands exploration targets in Batangas

By Ronnel W. Domingo

CANADIAN FIRM MINDORO RESOURCES Ltd. said it had secured an exploration permit for a total of 1,538 hectares of land near its existing gold and copper prospects in Batangas.

Mindoro Resources said in a statement that the permit covered five parcels of land with "multiple gold and copper-gold targets" where drill testing was planned for 2008 once ground work was completed and the priority drill targets defined.

In the statement, the company said the land was within its project area in Batangas which covered at least 30,000 hectares of a well-mineralized copper-gold belt.

Mindoro Resources said the permit was acquired under an agreement with Philex Mining Corp., which allowed the former and its partner --Egerton Gold Phils.-- to acquire up to 100-percent interest in the property. This is, however, subject to an underlying net smelter royalty of 2 percent to Philex.

Mindoro Resources, which trades on the Toronto-based TSX Venture Exchange, provided the following data for each parcel of land:

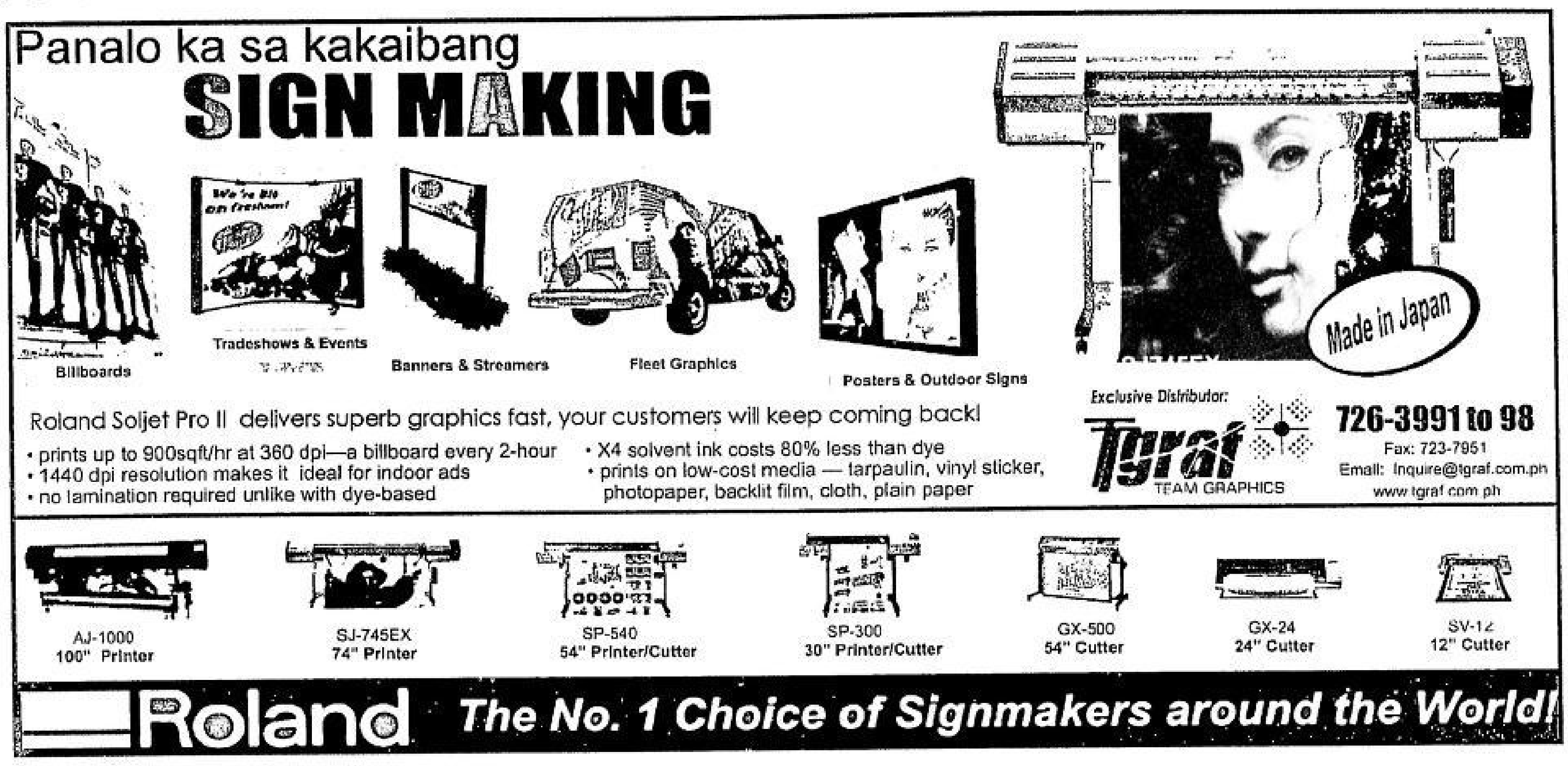
- the 162-hectare parcel 1, on the western side of the existing Calo porphyry copper-gold prospect, where drill-tested ore samples showed 3.8 percent copper content and 3 grams of gold and 56 grams of silver per ton;
- the 405-hectare parcel 2, near the Lobo project, where a a small gold deposit was confirmed in 2005;
- the 567-hectare parcel 3, near the Archangel gold-copper project, covers the Talon copper prospect where samples yielded 0.1 percent copper content and 3.8 grams of gold and 1.91 grams of silver per ton of ore;
- the 243-hectare parcel 4, also near the Archangel project, covers an extension of the so-called Bootin prospect which has shown indications of a porphyry copper-gold target deep underground; and
- the 161-hectare parcel 5, again near the Archangel project, covers an extension of the Kay Tanda gold-silver prospect where the firm has drilled at least 150 holes.

In May, Mindoro Resources announced it would raise CDN$2.45 million (or P104 million) through the TSX Venture Exchange to help advance its projects in the Philippines.

Mindoro Resources is holding 22 identified porphyry copper-gold prospects in the Philippines, spread across other areas in Batangas and the northeastern tip of Mindanao as well as Pan de Azucar Island off Panay Island.

The firm's Batangas package comprises 14,000 hectares of a gold-copper belt encompassing Lobo and Archangel and other acquisitions in the province.

Its Surigao package covers 24,000 hectares and is the second largest in the province, with mineral zones of epithermal gold, copper-gold porphyry, and nickel-cobalt laterite.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PNOC unit inve

By Abigail L. Ho

IN A BID TO FIND THE BEST JATROPHA variety to propagate, PNOC Alternative Fuels Corp. (PNOC-AFC), a unit of Philippine National Oil Co., spent nearly $3 million for its research and development efforts.

For the nurseries alone, PNOC-AFC president and chief executive Peter Anthony Abaya said the company had spent about P52 million, or about a third of what it had invested so far in research and development.

"We're still undergoing provenance testing. We've planted various varieties to test their behavior and their yield. Most likely, we'll use one of the varieties present in Mindanao and in Palawan," he said.

He said PNOC-AFC's R&D team, together with its partners at the Department of Science and Technology, had planted about seven jatropha varieties.

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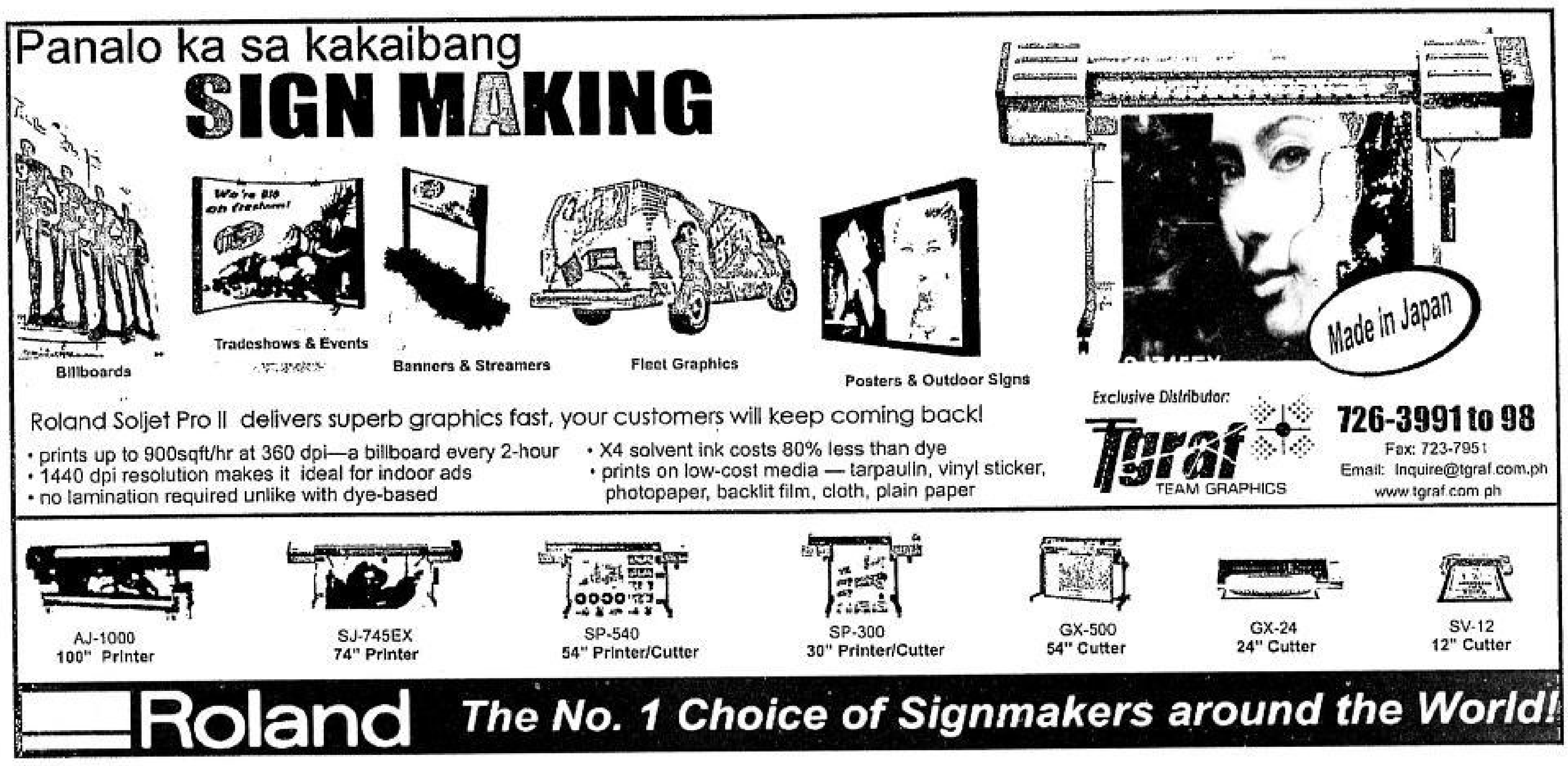
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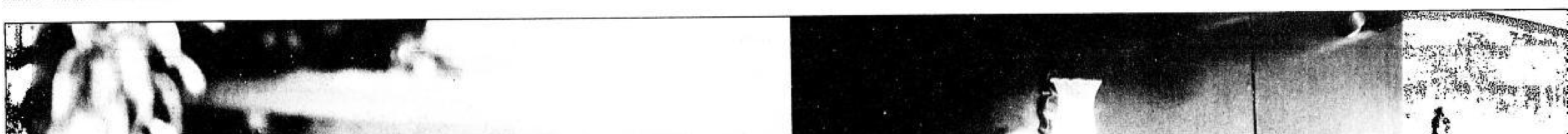
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OFF TO BEIJING Thirty-four young Filipinos, comprising the first batch of taipan John Gokongwei's scholars, pose for the cameras before checking in at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport for their flight to Beijing. They were selected by the Gokongwei Brothers Foundation from hundreds of applicants for a one-year, all-expense-paid study in China. The program aims to hone the talents of the country's future leaders.

JESS YUSON

Money supply growth slows down

Target is to keep rate of expansion at below 20%

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GROWTH IN THE COUNTRY'S broad money supply slowed down for the third consecutive month in July to hit 18.7 percent following the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' intensified mopping up operations.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said on Friday that the slower expansion in domestic liquidity in July compared to the 19.4 percent growth in the previous month was a result of the monetary measures initiated by the BSP in May, when it strengthened its special deposit facilities as a tool to mop up excess cash in the system.

Domestic liquidity or m3 is the broadest measure of money and is used to estimate the entire money supply in an economy. It includes cash in circulation, demand deposits, money market funds and short-term securities buyback agreements.

On a month-on-month basis excluding seasonality factors, domestic liquidity or m3 also rose at a slower pace of 0.7 percent in July versus 1.2 percent in June.

"The slowdown in net domestic assets moderated the growth in domestic liquidity, which continues to be driven mainly by the steady rise in net foreign assets," Tetangco said.

He said the year-on-year growth of net domestic assets decelerated to 0.4 percent in July from 3.8 percent in June while the growth of net foreign assets went up to 39.6 percent from 31.1 percent for the same period.

Credit extended to the public sector expanded at a slightly faster pace of 10.7 percent from 10.5 percent in June, while credit to the private sector grew more briskly during the period by 7.2 percent from 6 percent.

"Policy measures to absorb liquidity are expected to keep m3 growth at a manageable level, contributing to the overall benign inflation outlook," Tetangco said.

"The BSP will remain vigilant so that price stability is maintained and the upward trajectory of economic growth is sustained," he said.

This is line with the BSP's expectations that m3 growth would stay below the 20 percent in the months ahead.

Excessive liquidity growth, which could stoke inflation, was tempered by recent measures implemented by the BSP to mop up money supply.

Last May, the BSP transformed its previously underutilized SDA facility into a more potent tool. Under the new rules on SDA, even the banks' trust departments and non-bank state corporations can place funds with the BSP.

To make the SDAs more attractive, the BSP has made these instruments eligible as compliance to the banks' 50 percent liquidity requirement, or the portion of deposits and deposit substitutes required to be held in the form of negotiable and transferable government securities.

ests $3M in R&D

ese, the three best varieties
e recommended for propaga-
rious plantations.

al jatropha varieties that PNOC-
already tested included those
General Santos City, Davao,
Batangas, Laguna, Nueva Ecija,
marines Sur and Sorsogon.

not being too aggressive in
nting the project because we
be really careful. Jatropha
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nts, so we don't want to just
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variety we'll propagate will
the highest yield," Abaya said.

Bank of the Philippines has
ailable between P5 billion and
on worth of funds for farmers
er groups wanting to establish
plantations and even their
neries and other facilities.

nancing window was the result
morandum of agreement between Landbank and PNOC-AFC which was signed last week.

Under the agreement, Landbank would provide loans to qualified farmers or farmer groups wanting to venture into jatropha-related activities, including the establishment of plantations and refineries.

PNOC-AFC will help identify prospective jatropha growers who can avail themselves of financing from Landbank. It will identify prospective plantation sites, conduct technical validation on the sustainability of the area and other technical aspects needed in jatropha nursery production and plantation development.

It will enter into production, technical and marketing agreements with farmers, farmer groups, cooperatives, small and medium enterprises, corporations and other qualified entities for jatropha biodiesel-related projects.

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US Fed pledges to contain effect of credit crunch

US PRESIDENT George W. Bush talks about easing the mortgage default crisis next to US Secretary of Treasury Henry Paulson Jr. in the Rose Garden of the White House. REUTERS

Bush unveils broad measures to help homeowners

WASHINGTON—FEDERAL RESERVE chair Ben Bernanke pledged Friday to limit the spillover of a credit crunch on the broader economy as the White House unveiled aid to homeowners facing foreclosure.

The two separate announcements were aimed at curbing contagion from a housing crisis that some fear could derail the US economic expansion.

Bernanke, in his first public remarks since global markets were roiled by fears of a liquidity crisis, said the Fed wants to avoid "further tightening of credit conditions," which could have "adverse effects on consumer spending and the economy more generally."

Markets viewed the remarks as opening the door to a potential interest rate cut that could lower overall borrowing costs and stimulate credit markets.

Stephen Gallagher, economist at Societe Generale in New York, said the Fed "continues to embrace the market with tough love, but will do what is necessary," including a cut in the federal funds rate if necessary, on September 18.

Some analysts argue that Bernanke does not want to be too quick to cut rates, for fears of sparking inflation and being seen as bailing out investors who made risky bets.

But Robert DiClemente, economist at Citigroup, said he believes that "the speed and magnitude by which the overall financial setting has deteriorated are consistent with downside risks ... that justify policy (rate) action."

Meanwhile, President George W. Bush outlined a series of actions aimed at averting foreclosure for distressed homeowners, many of whom are facing a crisis as adjustable-rate mortgages are reset to reflect higher rates.

One measure announced by Bush would allow homeowners with a good credit history, but who cannot afford their current payments, to refinance into federally insured mortgages, likely at lower rates.

He also encouraged lenders to try to work out payment arrangements with financially strapped homeowners and urged Congress to pass additional relief measures.

However analysts said the measures would only affect a small fraction of the estimated two million homeowners facing foreclosure.

Bush insisted the federal government has only a "limited" role to play in helping millions of people now struggling to hold onto their homes amid rising interest rates and was not promoting "a federal bailout."

Bernanke, speaking at a Fed symposium in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, did not directly speak about the next move on interest rates, but appeared to be aiming to allay concerns that the Fed would do nothing to prevent a broader credit crunch that drags down the economy. *AFP*

GE sells plastics business to Saudi firm for $11.6B

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT—GENERAL Electric Co. closed an $11.6 billion (euro8.46 billion) sale of its plastics division on Friday, taking the final step in the long-anticipated divestiture.

The sale to petrochemicals manufacturer Saudi Basic Industries Corp. (Sabic) is part of the Fairfield-based conglomerate's strategy of selling slower growth and volatile businesses such as insurance, and invest in high-growth, high-technology businesses, such as health care and water processing technology.

Sabic is one of the world's 10 largest petrochemicals manufacturers.

The company is among the world's market leaders in the production of polyethylene, polypropylene and other advanced thermoplastics, glycols, methanol and fertilizers, as well as the fourth-largest polyolefins producer.

The deal is expected to create for GE a net gain, after taxes, of $1.5 billion (euro1.09 billion).

GE will use the proceeds of the sale to complete its current $27 billion (euro19.7 billion) stock buyback program, with $12 billion (euro8.76 billion) of the $14 billion (euro10.22 billion) planned for 2007 in the second half of this year.

The GE unit supplied plastic resins to the automotive, health care and consumer electronics industries.

It has been weighed down by the rising costs of natural gas and raw materials since 2004.

Profits for the division fell by 22 percent to $674 million (euro491.79 million) in 2006.

Sabic intends to expand the business globally and is not planning to cut jobs, company officials said.

The plastics division is a $6.6-billion (euro4.82 billion) global supplier of plastic resins used in automotive, health care, consumer electronics, transportation, building and construction, telecommunications, and optical media.

Based in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, it employs 10,300 people in 60 locations worldwide.

GE's plastics division dates to 1930, resulting directly from Thomas Edison's experiments with plastic filaments for light bulbs in the 1890s.

It grew into a significant GE venture where Jeff Immelt, president and chief executive, began his GE career. *AP*

Wall Street to focus on jobs report

NEW YORK—WITH RENEWED optimism of a Federal Reserve interest rate cut, Wall Street will begin a holiday-shortened week Tuesday with eyes turned toward a labor market report.

The major indices ended relatively flat after a week of volatile trading. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 0.16 percent from the prior week to finish at 13,357.74 points Friday while the tech-rich Nasdaq rose 0.76 percent to 2,596.36 points.

The broad market Standard & Poor's 500 index ended 0.36 percent lower than a week ago, at 1,473.99 points.

The market continued weeks of turbulence due to a credit crunch that originated in the high-risk subprime mortgage sector, where lenders offer home loans to people with shaky credit.

Investors are worrying about the unknown extent of the economic damage from the credit fallout.

Counting on the Federal Reserve to ease monetary policy and soothe the markets, investors finally were reassured Friday by a speech by Fed chair Ben Bernanke and measures to help distressed homeowners unveiled by President George W. Bush.

Bernanke's speech, to a Fed symposium in Wyoming, "was the minimum the market wanted to hear," said Marc Pado, an analyst at Cantor Fitzgerald.

The speech "wasn't exciting, but it was reassuring," he added.

For Stephen Gallagher of Societe Generale, Bernanke's remarks "validate expectations the Fed will do what is necessary to restore order and liquidity in the capital markets."

Investors also found reassurance on Friday from comments from Bush, who unveiled measures aimed at helping subprime borrowers avoid foreclosure and softening the blow of the subprime crisis on the overall economy.

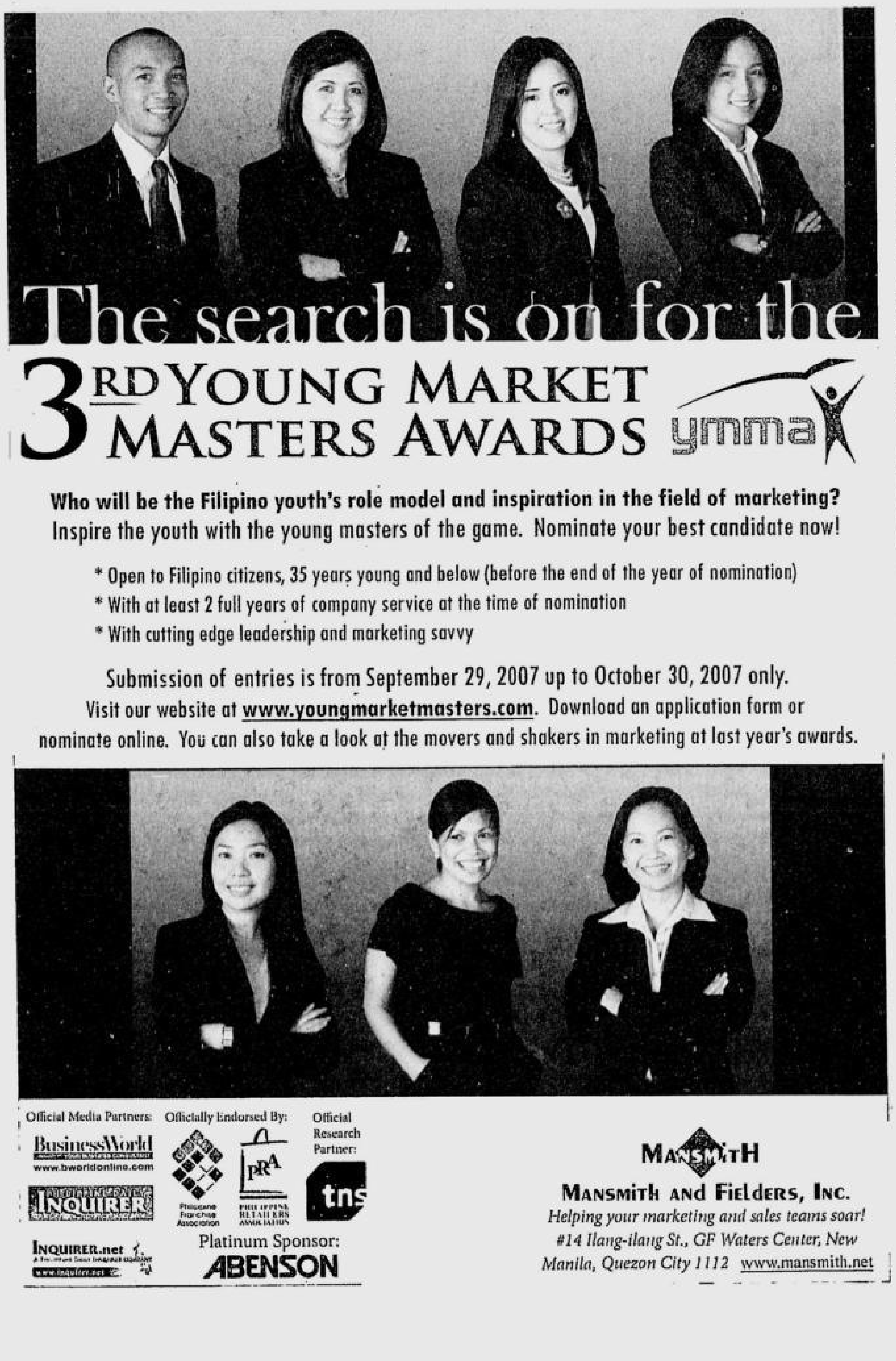
"US equity markets moved up somewhat uneasily last week, as economic indicators from August were relatively mixed for the outlook, while key speeches from President Bush and Fed chair Bernanke on Friday reassured investors to the effect that policymakers were alert to the looming issues in the housing and credit markets," wrote Global Insight analysts Brian Bethune and Nigel Gault.

Cantor Fitzgerald's Pado predicted the markets would get "a little bit of a reprieve" from volatility this week, ahead of the next Fed interest-rate meeting on September 18.

The markets are closed Monday for the Labor Day holiday, which honors American workers.

The market will be on tenterhooks for the release of the August employment report next Friday, expected to show a modest growth in job creations, analysts said.

"If there is one thing that gets the Fed to move one way or the other on rates" it is the jobs market, because it is a leading indicator of the state of the economy, Pado said. *AFP*



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Climate change breakthroughs not expected at Apec meeting

BANGKOK, THAILAND—BREAKTHROUGHS on greenhouse gas reductions are unlikely at this week's summit of Asia-Pacific leaders, environmentalist and diplomats said, though high-level discussions could shape future climate change agreements.

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum is expected to call for major polluters to make "measurable and verifiable contributions to meeting shared global goals," according to a draft declaration on climate change obtained by the environmental group Greenpeace and viewed by The Associated Press.

It makes no mention of emissions targets, instead calling for voluntary measures promoting the use of energy efficiency, forest protection and increased spending on cleaner forms of energy like wind and nuclear power.

Empty strategy

Environmentalists have already condemned the approach as an empty strategy.

But any consensus reached in Sydney by APEC's 21 members—which together use about 60 percent of global energy and include six of the top 10 carbon emitters in the United States, China, Russia, Japan, South Korea and Canada—could influence talks at a UN conference in December in Bali, Indonesia that will begin to chart the course for a successor to the Kyoto Protocol, which expires in 2012.

"If the Sydney declaration goes beyond diplomatic niceties, then it could shift the global debate on the framework for what the successor agreement to Kyoto would be," said Malcolm Cook, Asia-Pacific program director at Australian think tank the Lowy Institute.

The APEC leaders are expected to sign off on a climate change declaration at their Sept. 8-9 summit.

Voluntary measures

Some APEC delegates acknowledge it would be counterproductive to push for targets at the forum.

It thrives on voluntary measures, they said, and is missing key players including India, Brazil and the European Union.

"We think it is appropriate not to mention any target on the reduction emission itself," said Virachai Plasai, a member of Thailand's APEC delegation.

"This is best left to the UN process because it's the main framework for that," he said. "It is a proven framework, although it could be more efficient. If you try and set up something, I'm not sure whether the non-APEC members would join it."

Kyoto requires 35 industrial nations to cut their global-warming emissions 5 percent below 1990 levels by 2012. The US and Australia are the only industrialized nations not to sign Kyoto.

The EU wants a post-Kyoto agreement to limit global temperature rises at 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees F) above the levels of the preindustrial era. The EU, Canada and Japan have endorsed a 50 percent emissions reduction by 2050 to meet that goal and avoid the worst affects of global warming.

The US and Australia have opposed mandatory cuts and maintain that developing nations such as China, India and Brazil must be included in any pact.

China and India also argue against caps, saying it would impede their economic growth.

"I don't want to single China out, but China has got a major role to play," US President George W. Bush told reporters in Washington in a briefing on APEC.

"Any agreement without China is not going to be an effective agreement. So my strategy has been to get China at the table."

New approach

Australian Prime Minister John Howard, a harsh critic of Kyoto and former global warming skeptic, has put climate change at the top of the agenda at APEC, a year after the issue got only a passing mention in the group's final communique.

Howard says APEC could help design a new approach to climate change that will include developing as well as developed economies, and would allow flexibility depending on a country's development, and emphasize technological solutions.

APEC proposes to create a network to finance research and development into renewable energy and energy efficiency, and to increase forest cover in the APEC region to 20 million hectares (49.4 million acres).

Greenpeace spokesperson Ben Pearson said the APEC draft declaration confirms that "Howard and Bush want to use the upcoming APEC meeting to derail international negotiations on continuing and strengthening the Kyoto Protocol on climate change." *AP*

GMA declares Nasugbu a special tourism zone

Group formed to oversee development of municipality into a prime destination

By Marlon Alexander Luistro
Inquirer Southern Luzon

MT. PICO de Loro is one of Nasugbu's main attractions.

BATANGAS CITY—PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo has declared Nasugbu, a first class municipality in Batangas known for its white sand beach resorts, a special tourism zone.

Executive Order 647 signed on August 3 likewise called for the formation of a private sector-led "Nasugbu eminent persons group" to oversee the development of the Nasugbu Special Tourism Zone.

The NSTZ will cover the areas included in the Nasugbu Tourism Development Plan, which was prepared by the municipal government and validated by the Philippine Tourism Authority (PTA).

The order gave the PTA administrative and control functions over the zone, in coordination with the eminent persons group and the municipal government.

"Consistent with the avowed policy of the state to promote tourism in the country, the sustainable development of Nasugbu, Batangas as a priority tourism destination is hereby declared," Ms Arroyo said in her order.

Nasugbu, a 27,750-hectare coastal town, located 102 kilometers southwest of Manila, is a favorite leisure and vacation getaway, especially during summer.

It is subdivided into 42 villages, with a population of 98,558 based on the 2000 census.

The town's white sand beaches and virgin tropical forests have attracted a group of real estate developers like the SM Investments Corp. (SIC), which plans to construct a 5,900-hectare resort, the Hamilo Coast, in the NSTZ.

Within the property is Mt. Pico de Loro, a national park and a favorite hiking and mountaineering site.

SIC also intends to mount a ferry service departing from the Manila Bay terminal of the SM Central Business Park in the Mall of Asia to Hamilo Coast, due to be operational by 2008.

President Arroyo's order ensured that the government will plan, undertake, and cause the implementation of support projects and programs to preserve the attractiveness of Nasugbu, Batangas as a major tourism destination.

The order said that the functions of the five-man eminent persons group will include recommending to the PTA the rules necessary to ensure compliance with Nasugbu tourism's sustainable development program.

She also tasked the group to ensure the preservation of the town's natural and cultural heritage and to get the locals to take part in the development effort.

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Businessmen urged to invest in Luzon

By Amy R. Remo

THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC and Development Authority has urged local businessmen to invest in North Luzon given the great growth potential of its mariculture and mining resources.

During the North Luzon Area Business Conference held in La Union recently, Neda officer in charge Augusto B. Santos told businessmen in the area to take advantage of the opportunities presented by its location, natural resources and developments such as the super regions.

"North Luzon has a huge potential because of its wide marine and fishery expanse and vast deposits of metallic and nonmetallic resources," Santos said.

Investors can also take advantage of North Luzon's strategic location. It can serve as the country's link to Taiwan and Southern China.

"These are markets waiting for your products. The coastal areas can veritably be export outlets with the area's ports and airports," Santos told the local businessmen.

Santos also urged businessmen to take advantage of other opportunities spelled out in the "super region" thrust of the government.

The government had grouped provinces into four super regions, namely the Luzon Urban Beltway, North Luzon Agribusiness Quadrangle, Central Philippines and Mindanao super region.

North Luzon is covered by the NLAQ, headed by Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap.

NLAQ is composed of Cordillera, Ilocos, and Cagayan as well as parts of Central Luzon such as Nueva Ecija, Tarlac and Zambales.

With agribusiness as its current development thrust, the NLAQ super region produces 26 percent of the country's corn supply, 65 percent of vegetables and holds 37 percent of the Philippines' rice potential.

Copra prices drop in Eastern Visayas

By Joey A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—THE PRICE of copra in Eastern Visayas has dropped due to lower demand in the world market.

Philippine Coconut Authority regional director Edilberto Nierva said here recently that the price of copra has dropped from a high of P27 a kilo to about P22 a kilo in August.

Nierva said the drop in the price was caused by the decreasing demand for copra in the world market and the high cost of shipment to other countries.

Oil produced from copra or dried coconut meat is processed into cooking oil, and also used as a raw material in the manufacturing of such products as soap and cosmetics.

But Nierva said the region's more than 1.7 million coconut farmers have nothing to fear as the government expects prices to soon increase.

He said farmers should only begin to worry when the price reaches the critical level of P10 a kilo.

Eastern Visayas is the country's leading copra producer, and the industry accounts for around 60 percent of the region's economy.

Last year, the region generated $57 million from copra exports.

Nierva said the PCA also continues to assist coconut farmers, such as by attracting more investors to come in the region as this would help lessen impact of lower copra prices in the world market.

"At present, 80 percent of our coconut production is exported to other countries while only 20 percent is used domestically. We want this trend to reverse with 80 percent going to the local market and only 20 percent sold abroad," Nierva said.

There are eight oil mill plants now operating in different parts of Eastern Visayas, but their copra consumption is still below the region's annual copra production of 575,000 metric tons.

Nierva said these oil millers take in just over 300,000 metric tons a year.

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ACTIVITIES and PRODUCT PRESENTATIONS
Sept. 5, 2007 (Wednesday)
2:30-3:30 pm • How Handyware Can Help you to Start or Expand Your Toll-Packing Business
2:30-3:30 pm • Rapid Automatic Moisture Analyzer
4:00-5:00 pm • Product Presentation & Cooking Demo by Sunnex
4:00-6:30 pm • Nitrogen Gas for Modified Atmosphere Packaging
5:30-6:30 pm • Taho Making and Ways of Preparing Healthy Soy Beverages
Sept. 6, 2007 (Thursday)
10:30-11:30 am • Minimum Requirements for a Food Analysis Laboratory
10:30-11:30 am • Product Presentation by Clearpack Phils. Inc.
11:00-12:00 nn • Product Presentation & Cooking Demo by Fly Ace Corporation
1:00-2:00 pm • Features, Advantages & Benefits of Induction in Cooperation with MICHA
1:00-2:00 pm • Efficiency of Maurer-Atmos Installations
1:00-2:00 pm • Water Activity- A Key Parameter for Shelf Life of Food
2:30-3:30 pm • Developing "Shelf-Stable" Functional Beverages and Sauces
2:30-3:30 pm • Business Opportunity Seminar By San Miguel Pure Foods -Great Food Solutions
2:30-3:30 pm • Nutritious, Convenient and Hassle Free Recipes... Sunbest Style
4:00-5:00 pm • Developing your Own Perfume & Scented Candles Business
4:00-7:00 pm • The Influence of Climate on Shelf Life
5:30-6:30 pm • Latest Business Concept, "the BQ Grill Roast Fry"
Sept. 7, 2007 (Friday)
10:30-11:30 am • Viscosity Measurement- Solution to Many of your Problems
11:00-12:00 nn • Product Presentation & Cooking Demo by Fly Ace Corporation
1:00-2:00 pm • New PastisFrance Line- Top Quality French Ingredients for the Patisserie
1:00-2:00 pm • Buying the Right Franchise
1:00-2:00 pm • Aquabio-Fuel: The Emulsion Fuel Additive of the Futre
2:30-3:30 pm • The Answer to your Marking and Coding Needs
2:30-3:30 pm • Kusinang Kraft
4:00-5:00 pm • 101 Ways to Cook Your Bounty Fresh Chicken
4:00-6:30 pm • Product Presentation by Hastamat Verpackungstechnik Asia
4:00-6:30 pm • Mega Profit In The Coffee Business
5:30-6:30 pm • It's a Soy World
Sept. 8, 2007 (Saturday)
9:00-1:00 pm • How to Franchise Your Business
10:30-11:30 am • Prevention of Scale Formation on Process Boilers
1:00-2:00 pm • How to Put Up a Basic Lab
1:00-4:00 pm • Innovative Baking Seminar
2:30-3:30 pm • Flavor Innovation
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Nestle Ice Cream Scoopetition
Sept. 5 - 11:00 am @ Activity Area
Favorite Restaurant and Café Recipes: Decoding the Chef's Secrets
featuring Chef Heny Sison by San Miguel Pure Foods - GFS
Sept. 8 - 1:30 pm @ Activity Area
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50 years of the Social Security System Improving the lives of Filipinos

The SSS marks its Golden Anniversary with the theme, "Kaagapay, Kaibigan, Kabalikat Magpakailanman"

On September 1, 2007, the SSS celebrated its 50th Anniversary with the theme, "SSS – Kaagapay, Kaibigan, Kabalikat Magpakailanman". No less than President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo shall be the keynote speaker during the SSS Anniversary Program on September 3, 2007 at the SSS Main Office in Quezon City.

Other Golden Anniversary activities of SSS include medical outreach programs, information seminars, and job fairs in its cluster branches during the week prior to the Anniversary (August 27-31); a grand homecoming of past SSS officers and employees on September 1 at the SSS Members Assistance Center (MAC) in Quezon City; and a medical-dental mission for Metro Manila-based members on September 4, also at the MAC. There will also be a Pensioners' Day Program at the SM Mall of Asia for Metro Manila-based pensioners on September 5, which will held simultaneously in selected SM Malls nationwide (Bacolod, Baguio, Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, and Lipa).

The Anniversary theme highlights the multi-faceted role of SSS: Kaagapay, a partner of government and private enterprises in spurring economic and business growth; Kaibigan, a friend that every working Filipino member can turn to in times of need; and Kabalikat, a shoulder of support for families of members in realizing their dreams of a better life. The theme also gives emphasis on the impact of SSS, its benefits, and services on the lives of its over 27 million members here and abroad. It celebrates the role of SSS as an ally of all working Filipinos, a strong shoulder upon which they can rely, as they build the foundation for a better life for themselves, their families, and for the nation.

For the past five decades, the SSS has grown to become a dependable partner of the Filipino worker and his family. It has provided financial support in times of need and its investments have helped spur the Philippine economy. Through the years, as its coverage expanded and its programs developed and sustained, the SSS evolved into an organization capable of servicing its members nationwide and in key cities overseas. In the past years, the SSS overcame many obstacles that tested its resilience and strengthened its foundation. More importantly, as Filipinos increasingly crossed international boundaries in search for more lucrative employment in the global market, the SSS followed suit to make sure that wherever members may be, they can count on the SSS' mantle of protection.

Message

Malacañang Palace
Manila

Warmest felicitations to the Social Security System (SSS) on your 50th Founding Anniversary!

When the SSS began formal operations on September 1, 1957, it carried the hopes and aspirations of Filipino workers for a better life; a life that is secure from the mental and financial distress brought about by sickness, childbirth, disability, old age, and death. Though initially questioned, if not rejected outright, by some sectors of society when it was first implemented, the SSS Law, through the years, has proven its worth as an instrument for government to attain social justice and economic well-being for its citizenry.

Today, the SSS stands at its half-century mark as a strong and progressive institution – one which workers and employers alike trust as their partner in improving lives and building dreams. To the government, the SSS continues to be an ally in ensuring economic stability.

Congratulations to the Social Security Commission, headed by Chairman Thelmo Y. Cunanan, SSS President and Chief Executive Officer Corazon S. de la Paz, and to the good men and women of SSS on your 50th Anniversary. Tunay nga na kayo ay Kaagapay, Kaibigan, Kabalikat Magpakailanman!

Mabuhay ang SSS! Mabuhay ang sambayanang Pilipino!

Gloria Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

Today's stewards of the pension fund

THE SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION: Seated, from left: Chairman Thelmo Y. Cunanan and Vice Chairman Corazon S. de la Paz. Standing, from left: Commissioner Victorino F. Balais, Commissioner Donald G. Dee, Commissioner Marianito O. Mendoza, Commissioner Arturo D. Brion (Labor Secretary), Commissioner Fe Tibayan-Palileo, Commissioner Sergio R. Ortiz-Luis, Jr., and Commissioner Jose Sonny G. Matula.

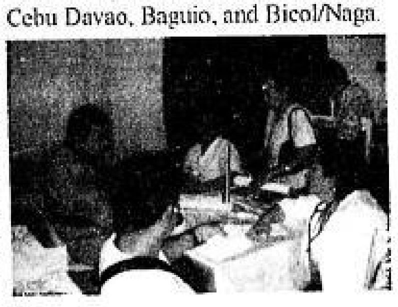
THE EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE: From left: EVP Horacio T. Templo, Mr. Lucito Sioson, SSS President Corazon S. de la Paz, Mr. Arturo San Gabriel and Mr. Nazario S. Cabuquit, Jr.

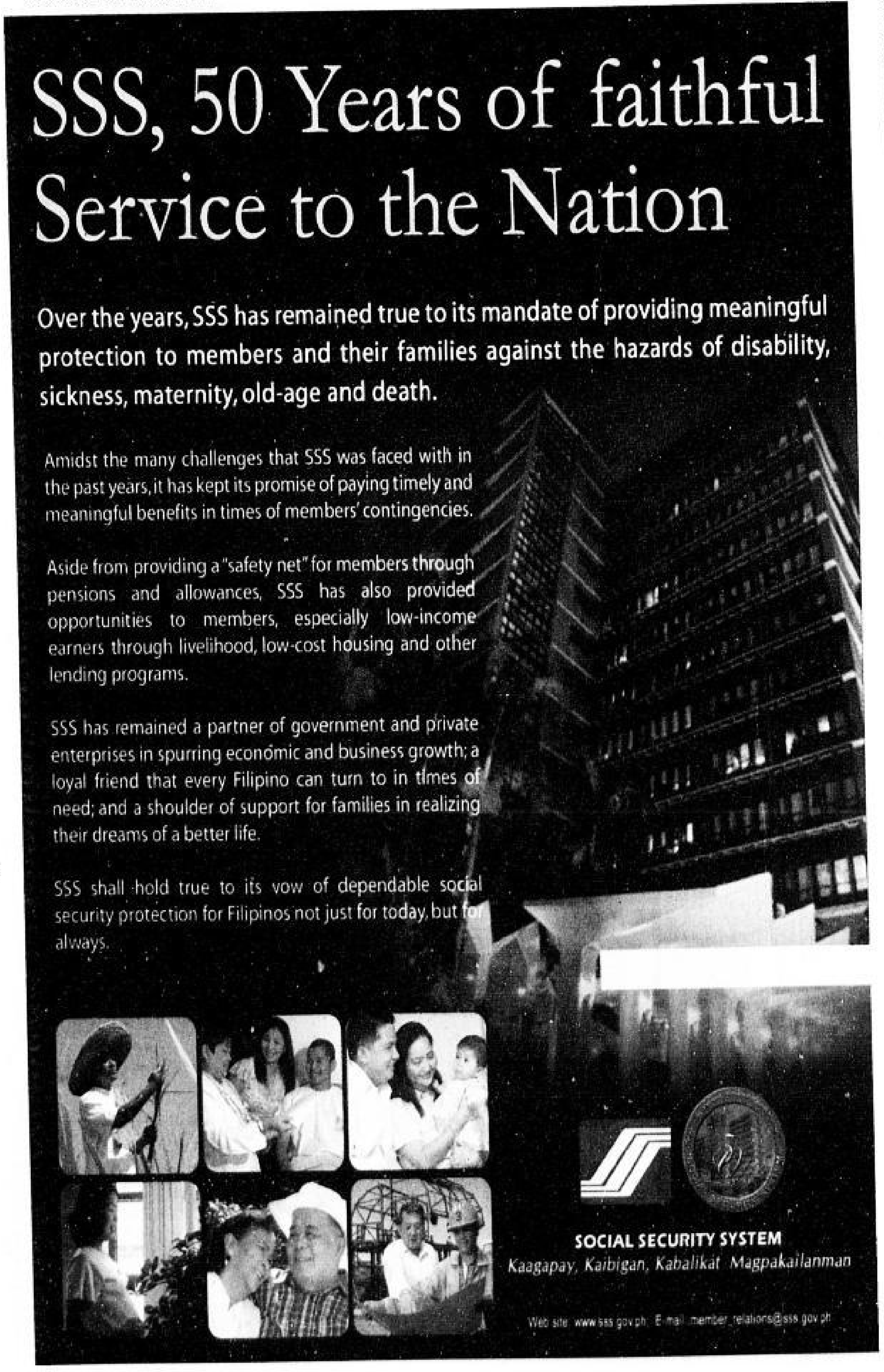
SSS to hold 50th Anniversary dental-medical mission

The Social Security System (SSS), in celebration of its 50th Anniversary on September 1, 2007, will conduct a medical and dental mission for its members and pensioners. The medical outreach program will be held on Tuesday, September 4, at the Member Assistance Center, East Avenue. Quezon City.

Doctors, dentists and nurses from the SSS' Health Care Department will be get blood pressure readings, provide medical consultations, and prescribe medicines. Pharmacists will also be on hand to dispense free medicines for simple ailments.

The Anniversary medical mission will be replicated within the month of September in selected SSS branches in Metro Manila, Bacolod, San Pablo, Tarlac, Cagayan de Oro, Zamboanga, Cebu Davao, Baguio, and Bicol/Naga.





SSS, 50 Years of faithful Service to the Nation

Over the years, SSS has remained true to its mandate of providing meaningful protection to members and their families against the hazards of disability, sickness, maternity, old-age and death.

Amidst the many challenges that SSS was faced with in the past years, it has kept its promise of paying timely and meaningful benefits in times of members' contingencies.

Aside from providing a "safety net" for members through pensions and allowances, SSS has also provided opportunities to members, especially low-income earners through livelihood, low-cost housing and other lending programs.

SSS has remained a partner of government and private enterprises in spurring economic and business growth; a loyal friend that every Filipino can turn to in times of need; and a shoulder of support for families in realizing their dreams of a better life.

SSS shall hold true to its vow of dependable social security protection for Filipinos not just for today, but for always.

SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
Kaagapay, Kaibigan, Kabalikat Magpakailanman

Web site: www.sss.gov.ph E-mail: member_relations@sss.gov.ph

To the
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
CONGRATULATIONS
On your
50th GOLDEN Anniversary!

Good news!

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Effective September 2007, SSS Pensions will be available thru Chinatrust VISA Cash Card.

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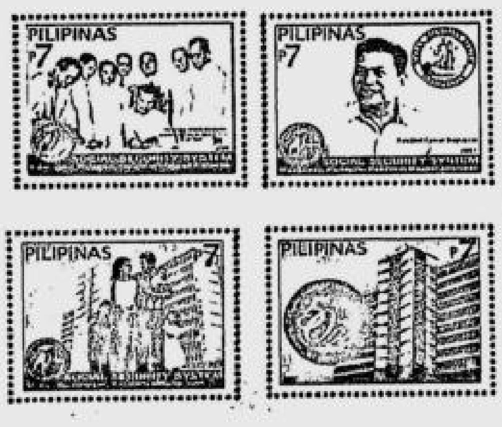
Congratulations to SSS on its Golden Anniversary!

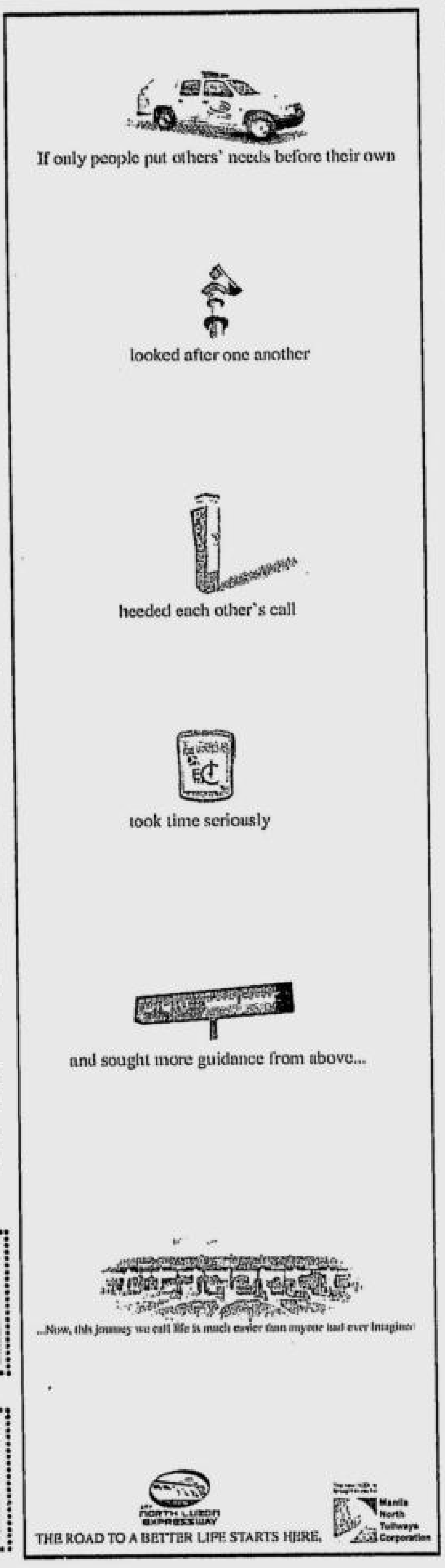
Postage stamps commemorate SSS 50th Anniversary

The launching of the SSS Commemorative Stamps is one of the significant events to mark the 50th Anniversary of the institution. The stamps, which highlight the role that the late President Ramon Magsaysay played in the establishment of the SSS, were also designed as a fitting tribute to the "People's President". President Magsaysay is known as the "Father of Social Security", as it was during his administration when the original Social Security Act of 1954, also known as Republic Act 1161, was signed into law on June 18, 1954.

The commemorative stamps carry four designs. The first is a picture of a family, which embodies the SSS' Golden Anniversary theme of "Kaagapay, Kaibigan, Kabalikat Magpakailanman". The second is a portrait of President Magsaysay, while the third shows a photo of the President as he signed Republic Act 1161 into law, as witnessed by the law's authors. The last stamp design is a picture of the landmark SSS building and the 50th anniversary logo.

The stamp's cancellation, or official issuance for circulation, was held on August 31, 2007, which was also the Centenary of President Ramon Magsaysay's birth




If only people put others' needs before their own

looked after one another

heeded each other's call

took time seriously

and sought more guidance from above...

...Now, this journey we call life is much easier than anyone had ever imagined

NORTH LUZON EXPRESSWAY

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People, Events & Products

Director's Club at SM Mall of Asia

SM CINEMA, IN COOPERATION with the Philippine Daily Inquirer, recently launched the SM Mall of Asia's Director's Club which was attended by Inquirer's top advertisers.

Among those present were Solar Sports Entertainment president Wilson Tieng, United International Pictures general manager Selena Gecolea-de Venecia with Nicole Castillo, St. Luke's Medical Center's Christine Liwanag, Cebu Pacific's Charlie Manio, Toyota's Danny Isla, Mitsubishi's Mel Dizon, Inquirer SVP Rene R. Reinoso, Inquirer VP Pepito R. Olarte, Inquirer Classified Ads AVP Jess Rebustillo, and Inquirer sales officer Mylene de Jesus.

Other guests who attended the launch were Full Circle Communication's Paul and Millen de Quiros, Globe Telecom's Jones Campos, and Penshoppe's Gigi Tibi and Arnold Sabado. They were welcomed by SM VP for marketing Millie Dizon, SM VP for Leisure Inc Ric Camaligan, SM's regional operation's manager Steven Tan and senior manager for LCI Leslie Go.

Sharing honors in the ribbon-cutting ceremony were SM Prime Holding's President Hans Sy, Solar Sports Entertainment president Wilson Tieng, SM VP for leisure Ric Camaligan and United International Pictures general manager Selena Gecolea-de Venecia.

Capping the event was the screening of "The Bourne Ultimatum", a 2007 film based loosely on Robert Ludlum's novel of the same name. A sequel to "The Bourne Supremacy", it stars Matt Damon reprising his role as Ludlum's signature character, amnesia-suffering CIA assassin Jason Bourne.

Can you imagine a cozy cinema that's all your own? Director's Club is an all-impressive venue to treat family and friends. It has 30 plush and fully reclining La-Z Boy armchairs with side tables, cozy interiors and lounge, superb sound system with a movie library of movie titles.

Invite your family, friends and business colleagues to a screening spectacle. Set your choice of event, corporate events, conferences, meetings, presentations, product launches, seminars and symposiums. Director's Club is the right place to hold your choice of events.

Or you can choose your own favorite movie, from action, adventure, comedy, drama, romance or suspense from its movie library for a treat to your family and friends.

Every rental goes with 30 regular popcorn and 30 regular size drinks and use of the Lobby Lounge.

For bookings and rates inquiries, call the Mall of Asia Cinema Office at 556-0104 or 556-2314 or e-mail Director's Club@smsupermalls.com or rentals@smcinema.com.

Director's Club is located at the second Floor of the Entertainment Bldg of SM Mall of Asia.

FROM left, Toyota Motors Philippines' Danny Isla, Hans Sy, Mitsubishi Motors Inc's Mel Dizon, and Charlie Manio of Cebu Pacific.

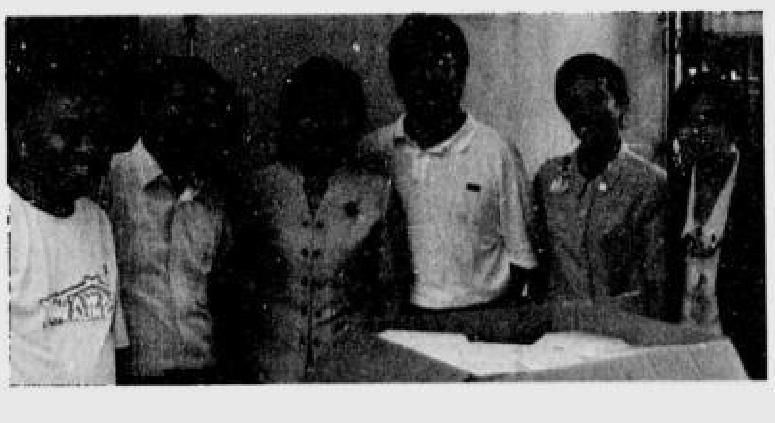
HANS Sy, INQUIRER's Mylene de Jesus, Millen de Quiros of Full Circle Communications, and Jones Campos of Globe Telecoms.

INQUIRER VP Pepito Olarte, Hans Sy, Christine Liwanag of St. Luke's, Nicole Castelo of Solar Sports Entertainment, INQUIRER SVP Rene Reinoso, INQUIRER AVP Jess Rebustillo, and INQUIRER sales officer Mylene de Jesus.

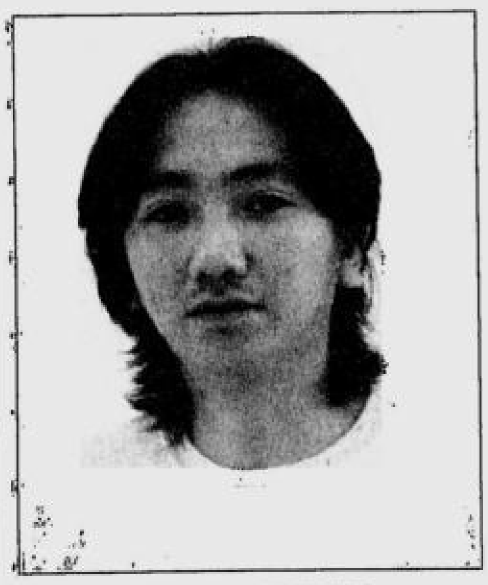
SHOWN, from left, are Hans Sy, SM Prime Holdings Inc president, United International Pictures general manager Selena Gecolea-de Venecia, Solar Sports Entertainment president Wilson Tieng, and SM VP for Leisure Inc Ric Camaligan.

CMC JOINS GAWAD KALINGA'S SIBOL PROGRAM

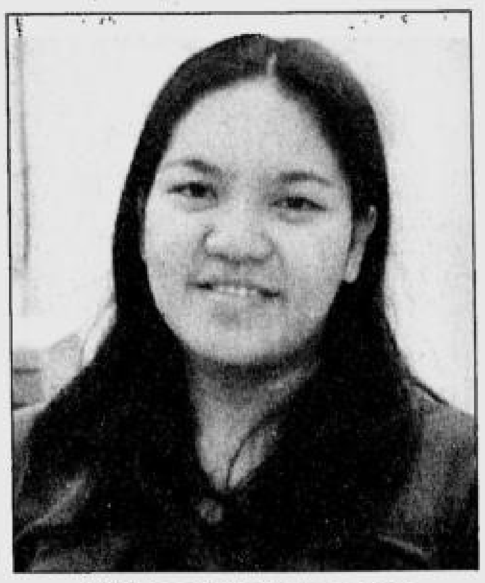
As part of its community service, Capitol Medical Center, spearheaded by its vice president and chief operating officer Carmina C. Desales, MHA, FPCHA, collaborated with Gawad Kalinga in donating books and toys for the Sibol Schools. The Sibol program aims to provide quality education within a Christian environment that develops children in depressed areas, ages 3 to 6 years old. The Sibol children gladly received the books and toys personally handed by Desales to each of them. The Sibol staff, on the other hand, expressed their heartfelt gratitude as these donations would be of great help for the Sibol children in honing their knowledge and skills. Shown, 3rd from left, is Desales with GK officers Maning Aida, Ben Gamez and Delfy Geraldez and CMC staff Olet Arguilla, administrative officer and Faridah A. Vicerra, marketing assistant distributing books and toys to the Sibol children.



NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



GEMER REYES
17-Jul-07



MELODY BURGOS
18-Jul-07

The above persons are no longer connected with Antex Enterprise. Any transactions with them will not be honored by the company.

(PDI–September 3, 2007)

September 27, 2007 • Thursday • 2PM • Mezzanine, Robinsons Summit, Ayala Avenue, Makati City

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BCDA

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY

Republic of the Philippines

DAMPE SERVICE AREA OF THE SUBIC-CLARK-TARLAC EXPRESSWAY

The Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) is inviting interested oil companies to participate in the resumption of the bidding for the privatization and development of the approximately 4.214 hectares Dampe Service Area of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (Sta. 21+730 Subic-bound).

Interested oil companies should submit their Letters of Interest to BCDA and must purchase the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the disposition that outlines, among others, the requirements that will enable the oil company to participate in the bidding for the privatization.

The TOR for the disposition will be ready for distribution to interested proponents from 28 August to 07 September 2007 at the BCDA Corporate Center. A non-refundable cost of the TOR is Php 20,000.00 payable to the BCDA in Cash or Manager's Check.

A conference among interested oil companies is tentatively set on 07 September 2007, at 10:00 a.m., at the BCDA Corporate Center. The objective of the conference is to discuss the Property, the TOR, and other clarifications from interested proponents. Interested proponents will be informed of the final schedule and venue of the conference through contact numbers submitted to the BCDA.

Interested proponents can direct their inquiries to:

VICTOR V. ZABLAN
Chairman, Special Bids and Awards Committee
Bases Conversion and Development Authority
BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st St.
Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City
Email Address: blandal@bcda.gov.ph or hamonroyo@bcda.gov.ph

or they can contact Ms. Bambie L. Andal or Mr. Hoomer A. Monroyo at telephone numbers 816-6666 loc. 125 and 816-1043.

(Sgd.) **VICTOR V. ZABLAN**
Chairman, Special Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--September 3, 2007)

BCDA

BASES CONVERSION AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS

The Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) is inviting interested proponents to submit proposals for the privatization and development of the 1.2-hectare Expanded Big Delta Lots located in the Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila.

Interested proponents may submit their Letters of Interest to BCDA and purchase the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the privatization and development of the property that outlines, among others, the requirements, procedures, methodology and criteria for evaluation and selection of proposals.

The TOR shall be made available to the interested proponents starting August 28, 2007 at a non-refundable cost of Fifty Thousand Pesos (PhP50,000.00), payable to BCDA in cash or manager's check.

A Pre-bid Conference among interested proponents shall be held on September 10, 2007, 2:00 p.m., at the BCDA Operations Conference Room, BCDA Corporate Center, 2nd Floor Bonifacio Technology Center, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City. The objective of the Pre-bid conference is to discuss the property, the TOR and other issues that may be raised by interested proponents.

Interested proponents may direct their inquiries to Ms. Aileen An. R. Zosa or Ms. Bambie L. Andal at telephone numbers 816-6666 loc 110 or 124 or at arzosa@bcda.gov.ph or blandal@bcda.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **VICTOR V. ZABLAN**
Chairman, ADP-3 Committee

(PDI--September 3, 2007)

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(Aurora)

Makati:
892-5578;
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Inquirer Classifieds
SM Megamall Branch,
5th Floor Building B,
from **July 30** to **September 15, 2007.**

For ad placements, please call
6350219, 6350220 *or* **8978808.**

Republic of the Philippines
SILANG WATER DISTRICT
M. H. Del Pilar St., Silang, Cavite

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The *SILANG WATER DISTRICT*, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites qualified contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	Procurement of uPVC Pipes and Various Materials for the Transmission Line from Kaong to Bulihan Project.
Location	Kaong, Silang, Cavite
Brief Description	Supply of uPVC Pipes and various materials for the transmission line from Kaong to Bulihan, Silang, Cavite
Funding Source	Corporate Budget for the Contract Approved by SWD Board of Directors
Contract Duration	Two Hundred Forty Days (240) upon receipt of Notice to Proceed on Staggered basis
Delivery Period	Seven (7) Days upon receipt of Notice to Proceed for the initial delivery

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding, and have key personnel and equipment (owned, leased or under purchase) available for the prosecution of the project. The list of minimum equipment requirement is indicated in the Eligibility Forms. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	September 5-12, 2007
2. Pre-bid Conference	September 13, 2007 (2:00PM)
3. Submission of Letters of Intent and Application for Eligibility (*If single-stage bidding is used, delete this activity*)	NA
4. Opening of Bids (Deadline of Submission 12:00PM)	September 26, 2007 (2:00 PM)
5. Bid Evaluation	September 28, 2007
6. Post-qualification	October 4, 2007
7. Notice of Award	October 10, 2007

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Fifteen Thousand Pesos (Php 15,000.00) to the Silang Water District Cashier.

The Silang Water District assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:

BONIFACIO B. DELA CRUZ
Acting BAC Chairman-OIC

(PDI–September 3, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
SILANG WATER DISTRICT
M. H. Del Pilar St., Silang, Cavite

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Silang Water District, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites consultants to apply for eligibility and shortlisting and if found eligible and shortlisted, to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	Engineering Consultancy Service for Malindig Spring Development Project
Brief Description	Preparation of detailed engineering design, technical specifications, bill of materials and cost estimates for the development of Malindig Spring located at Brgy. Carmen, Silang, Cavite.
Source of Funding	Corporate Budget for the Contract Approved by the Governing Board
Contract Duration	60 calendar days

The list of minimum requirements is indicated in the Eligibility Form. Eligibility of prospective bidders shall be checked using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Shortlisting of eligible consultants will be done based on the following criteria: experience of the consultant, qualification of personnel and current workload. The evaluation procedure to be adopted shall be Quality Cost Base.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).
The schedule of activities is as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Submission of Letters of Intent and Application for Eligibility	September 5-18, 2007
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	September 10-18, 2007
3. Submission of Eligibility Requirements (last day @ 12:00 PM)	September 19, 2007
4. Results of Eligibility Check	September 21, 2007
5. Results of Short Listing	September 21, 2007
6. Issuance of Bid Documents	September 24-October 2, 2007
7. Pre-bid Conference	October 3, 2007

The Eligibility Screening Form will be available at SWD Annex Administration Building, E. Gonzales St., Silang, Cavite upon submission of a letter of intent, and upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Hundred Pesos (Php 500.00) to the Silang Water District Cashier. Submission and results of eligibility shall be in the same office.

Bid Documents will be available only to shortlisted bidders upon payment to the Silang Water District Cashier. (Bid Document fees shall be announced later)

The Silang Water District assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:

BONIFACIO B. DELA CRUZ
Acting BAC Chairman-OIC

(PDI–September 3, 2007)

Cebu Branch Manager-IDP Philippines

IDP Education Pty Ltd-Philippines is seeking an enthusiastic person for the position of Branch Manager for their new office in Cebu.

If you live in Cebu, are flexible, creative and driven by a desire to deliver quality service to customers this may be the position for you.

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You will also be dealing with representatives of Australian institutions marketing in the Philippines and supporting the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) administered by IDP Manila.

An attractive starting salary including bonuses as well as medical benefits will be offered to the right person. Opportunities for personal development, training and international travel are also available.

See www.idp.com/philippines for more details
Applications close September 19, 2007

idp

OBITUARIES

"I waited
patiently for
the Lord; He
turned to me
and heard
my cry. He
lifted me out
of the slimy
pit, out of the
mud and
mire; He set
my feet on the
rock and
gave me a
firm place to
stand;"
Psalm 40:1-2

In Loving Memory
On the 1st Death Anniversary
of Our Beloved

CHRISTOPHER NICHOLES (NIKKI) P. CASTRO

Died - September 03, 2006

NIKKI will be fondly remembered at the 6:00 pm Mass today, September 03, 2007 at the Ateneo College Chapel, Quezon City.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

In loving memory of

Geronima G. Que

July 20, 1914 – August 31, 2007

Her husband:	**Carlos Que**†
Siblings:	**Teodora** and **Marcelo**†
Children:	**Carolina** and **Jose**† **Villongco** **Ana Maria** and **William Tan** **Cecilia** and **Geminiano Jr. Yabut** **Angelica Gonzales** **Maria Luisa**† and **Ruperto Camara** **Maria Corazon** and **Antonio Garcia**
Grandchildren:	**Roberto** and **Kathleen**, **Jose Cenon**, **Marcelia**, **Carlo Geronimo** and **Carmel**, **Francis**, **Michael Climent** **Edmund** and **Marite**, **Elaine**, **Edward** and **Rochelle**, **Eloisa** and **Engelbert**, **Edison**, **Elinor** **Geminiano III** and **Annabeth**, **Carlos** and **Michelle**, **Geronimo** and **Nicole**, **Jose Elston** and **Kristine Patricia** **Rosa Maria** and **James Edward**, **Geronima** and **Srinivas**, **Carlos** **Eumir Carlo** and **Gwendelina**, **Paolo Carlo**, **Abimar Carlo** **Anthony** and **Monette**, **Mary Anne**, **Michelle**, **Geronima**, **Ma. Christina** and **Martin**, **Grace**

Her great-grandchildren request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel 1
of the Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig.

There will be a Mass at the Heritage Park on September 6, 2007 at 7:00 a.m.
Interment will immediately follow at the Chinese Cemetery.

Mortuary and Crematory
at
THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

MR. JONJON BARDON
Effective July 28, 2007

MR. MANOLITO MARQUEZ
Effective August 16, 2007

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT ***MR. JONJON BARDON & MANOLITO MARQUEZ***, WHOSE PICTURES APPEAR HEREWITH, ARE NO LONGER CONNECTED WITH **SUNSTAR MANILA MKTG., INC. & THE SUNSTAR PUBLICATIONS NETWORK.**

THE SUNSTAR GROUP OF COMPANIES WILL NOT HONOR ANY AND ALL TRANSACTIONS ENTERED INTO BY SAID INDIVIDUALS STARTING THE ABOVE EFFECTIVE DATES. FURTHERMORE, THE SUNSTAR NETWORK HAS CEASED TO AUTHORIZE ***MR.JONJON BARDON & MR. MANOLITO MARQUEZ*** TO ACCEPT PAYMENTS OR TRANSACT ANY BUSINESS FOR AND IN BEHALF OF **SUNSTAR MANILA MKTG., INC., SUNSTAR PUBLISHING, INC. AND THE SUNSTAR PUBLICATIONS NETWORK.**

THE MANAGEMENT

(PDI - Sept. 2. 2007)

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

LICENSE FOR PRIVATE RECRUITMENT AND PLACEMENT AGENCY

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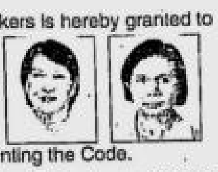
This license to recruit, process and deploy landbased workers is hereby granted to



ALMER MANPOWER CORPORATION
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pursuant to the Labor Code and Omnibus Rules Implementing the Code.

This license shall be valid in the Philippines for the period 17 September 2007 to 16 September 2009 unless sooner revoked, cancelled or suspended for violation of the Labor Code and related issuances. Transfer or use by any other person or entity tenders this license null and void.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of National Capital Region, Department of Labor and Employment, to be affixed at the City of Manila, Philippines, this 16th day of August 2007.

(Sgd.) **RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE**
OIC-Regional Director

(Renewal of this license is thirty (30) days before expiration date)

(PDI--Sept. 3, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
PhilHealth Regional Office X
6/F, Trinidad Bldg., Yacapin-Corrales Sts., Cagayan de Oro City
Healthline (08822) 710-473

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

RE-BIDDING FOR SECURITY SERVICES FOR CY 2007 - 2008
ITB No. PRO X-07-011

The **PHILHEALTH REGIONAL OFFICE X (PRO X)**, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites appropriate agencies to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : **SECURITY SERVICES**
Location : Cagayan de Oro City, Ozamis, Iligan, Marawi, Gingoog and Bukidnon.
Brief description : Needed Security Personnel are as follows:
- PRO X, CDOC - 6
- CDO S.O./PMAC - 5
- PRO-X 4 S.O.'s (3 each) - 12
- PRO-ARMM & Marawi - 6
- Total .... - 29 personnel

Prospective bidders should have their main office in Cagayan de Oro City.

Approved Budget for the Contract : **P3,322,112.40**
Contract Duration : One Year, renewable every year
Period Covered : November 2007 to November 2008

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last five years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule (2007)
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	September 9 - 24
2. Pre-bid Conference	September 12
3. Opening of bids	September 25
4. Bid evaluation	September 25 - October 2
5. Post-qualification	October 2-8
6. Notice of Award	October 8-15

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **Three Thousand Pesos Only (P3,000.00)** to the **PhilHealth Regional Office X** Cashier.

The PRO X assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) **DR. USAFENO F. OBIAL**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Sept. 3, 2007)

DAVAO CITY WATER DISTRICT
J.P. Laurel Ave., Davao City
Telephone no. 082-221-9400 (local 204)/ Fax: 082-2264885

SECOND (2ND) INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Davao City Water District (DCWD), through its Bids and Awards Committee-B (BAC-B), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract : **Construction of Facilities for the Commissioning of Panacan Production Well no. 3**
Location : **Malagamot Road, Panacan, Davao City**
Brief Description : **The project includes the Site Development (construction of Control House, Perimeter Fence, Asphalting, Splash Box, Drainage System, Pedestal, Pipe Support, Discharge Line and Construction of Erection Boom), Installation of Electrical Facilities, Motor Controls (Soft Start), Chlorination System (2-1 Hp Vertical Multistage Motor with In-line Centrifugal Pump), and 150 Hp Submersible Pump and Motor.**

Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) : **Php 6,097,285.17**
Contract Duration : **133 Calendar Days**

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC-B will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation-A (IRR-A).

The schedule of BAC-B activities is as follows:

BAC-B Activities	*Schedule*
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	Sept. 3 - 10, 2007
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	Sept. 3 - 10, 2007
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	Sept. 4 – 17, 2007
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	Sept. 24 – Oct. 9, 2007
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	Sept. 25 – Oct. 16, 2007
6. Pre-bid Conference	October 17, 2007; 2:00 P.M.
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	October 30, 2007; 2:00 P.M.

The BAC-B will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms thru the BAC-B Secretariat c/o at the DCWD Office of the AGM for Operations, Bajada, Davao City, upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of **Php 1,500.00** to the DCWD Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC-B at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC-B at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC-B to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **Php 3,500.00** to the DCWD Cashier.

The Davao City Water District assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Approved by:

ENGR. EDWIN V. REGALADO
Chairperson, Bids & Awards Committee-B

(PDI–September 3, 2007)

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DOT steps up drive to lure visitors to Visayas

Shangri-La leads list of investors putting money in region

By Ronnel W. Domingo

BIG-TICKET TOURISM ACCOMMODATION projects in the Visayas are helping make the region the tourism corridor that President Macapagal-Arroyo described in her State of the Nation Address in 2005.

According to the Department of Tourism, these projects include the $500-million Chi Spa Village at the Shangri-La Mactan in Cebu; $30-million expansion of a resort in Palawan and the newly opened Iloilo International Airport.

Existing facilities and attractions, however, are already enough to position the central islands as a tourism super region through the Philippine Travel Exchange 2007 trade fair slated this week in Cebu.

Phitex 2007 project manager Tess Mauricio said in a statement that the event, which would be held at the Cebu International Convention Center on Sept. 5-6, was expected to host 120 of the world's biggest foreign buyers of travel packages.

At the same time, 87 local seller companies would take part in Phitex 2007, including 54 hotels and resorts, three airlines, 28 tour operators and two convention facilities.

"The CICC itself and other new tourism infrastructure and facilities in the region are expected to gain much of the international attention," Mauricio said.

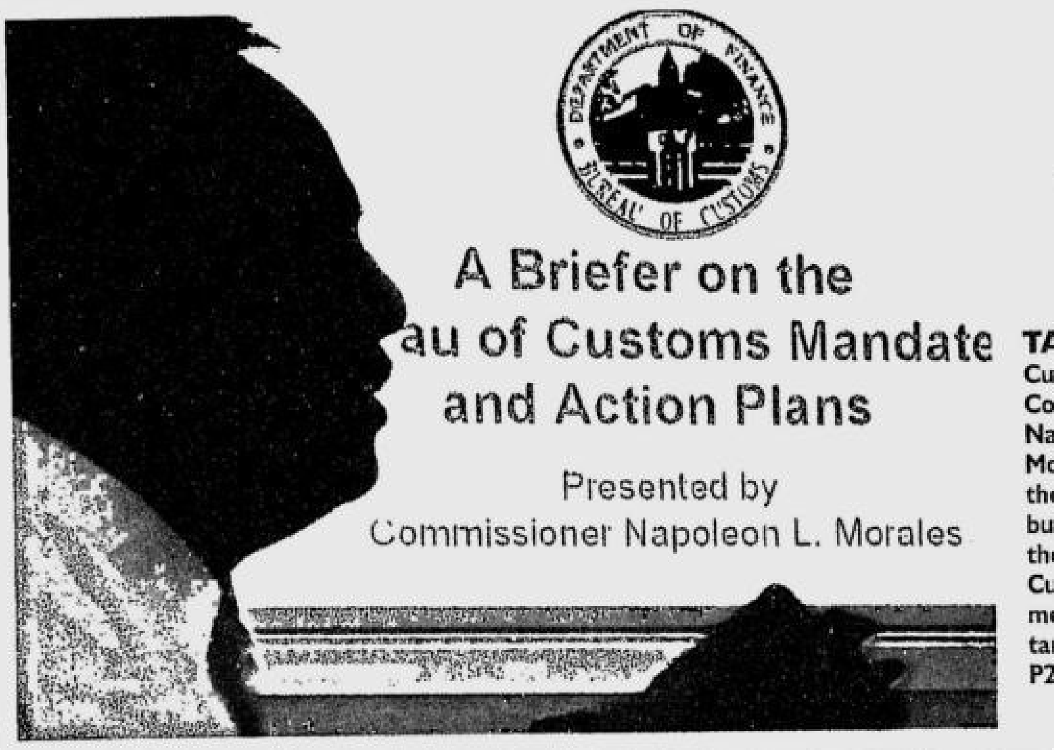
"Central Philippines makes a good representation of the country's brand image as a multidimensional tropical paradise of 7,107 islands, since the region itself is more characterized by island clusters than the mainlands of Luzon and Mindanao," she added.

Mauricio said this year's Phitex—the 7th in a series of yearly gatherings of foreign and local industry players—features presentations and one-on-one business meetings between buyers and sellers, and pre- and post-event tours for the visitors who will market the Philippines in their respective countries.

In a separate statement, Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano said European buyers accounted for 26 of some 120 groups that have confirmed to join Phitex 2007.

"These consist of seven each from France and Germany, five from the Czech Republic, one each from the United Kingdom and Poland, three from Slovakia, and two from Hungary," Durano said.

He said other foreign delegations include 15 from Korea and China, 10 from Hong Kong, nine from Singapore, 10 from Japan, four from North America and India and three from Australia.



TAX MAN Customs Commissioner Napoleon L. Morales shares with the INQUIRER business staff how the Bureau of Customs plans to meet its collection target this year of P228.2 billion.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

New Meralco rate system OKd

By Abigail L. Ho

THE ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION has approved the Manila Electric Co.'s application to set rates using the performance-based rate-making (PBR) methodology.

Under this new method approved last Aug. 31, the country's largest private electricity distributor will be able to charge rates based partly on projected investments and operating expenses related to the distribution of electricity.

The PBR method replaces the 80-year-old return on rate base (RORB) scheme, where rates are computed based on the assets used in generating electricity and a profit margin for the utility.

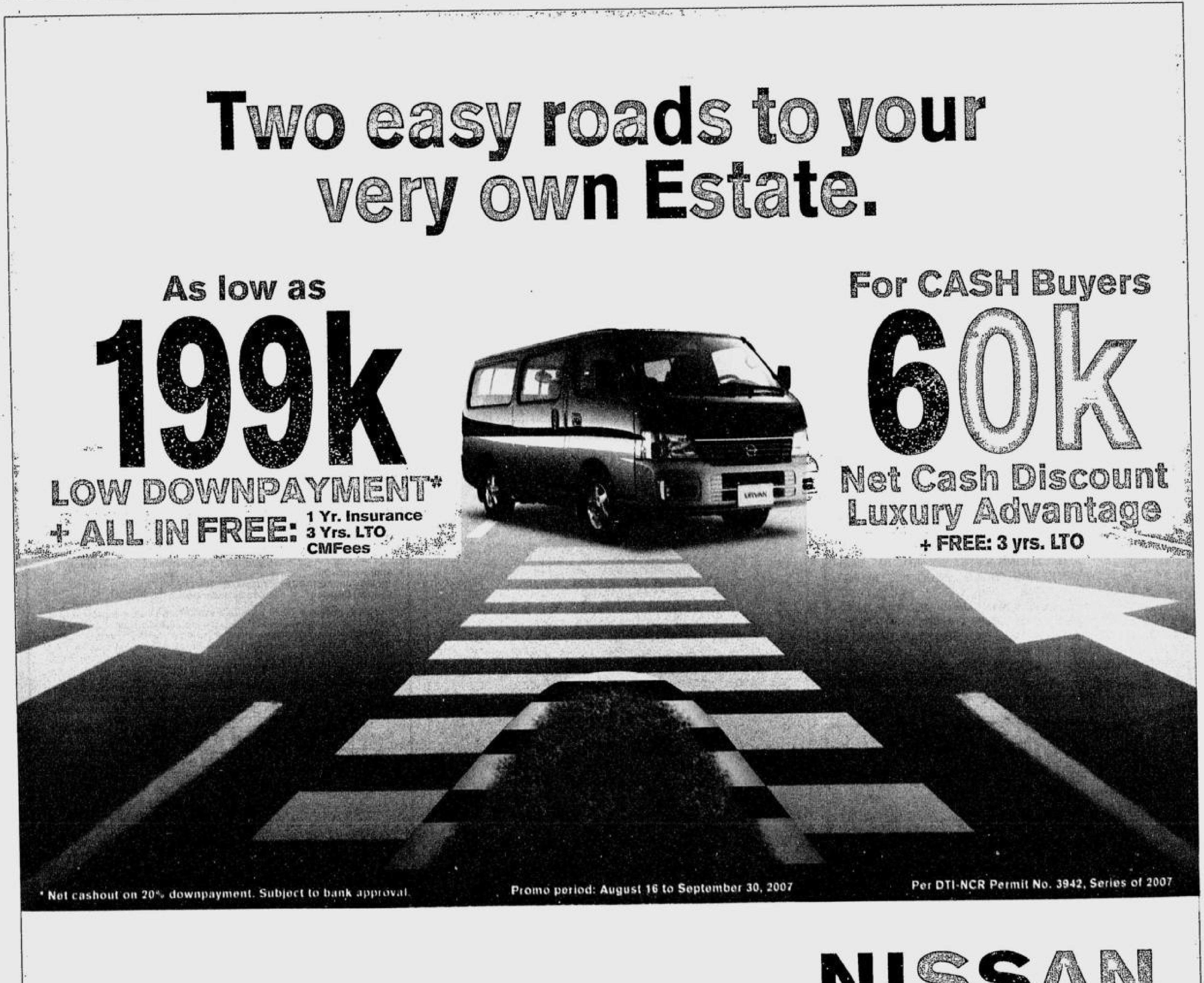
Meralco wanted a new system in place because under the RORB scheme, the utility does not get the return that it is allowed because the rates are based on historical data.

But by using the PBR methodology, Meralco expects faster recovery of costs incurred in providing electricity service.

Meralco president and chief operating officer Jesus Francisco said earlier that the PBR method would be more beneficial in the long run as it would allow regular and faster cost recoveries, doing away with the "regulatory lag" associated with the recovery of a distribution utility's costs, particularly those related to power supply and currency exchange rate.

"The procedure is, once you have agreed on the operating expenses and capital expenditures, the ERC will already calculate the rate adjustment that will grant the utility its desired return. That is going to be given to you regularly or every year," he added.

How the new scheme will impact on consumers monthly electricity bills, however, will not be known until Meralco's submits its computations to the ERC.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Tree planting is in

Filipinos more environment conscious, says Figaro

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—Tree planting has become more popular than ever these days because of the adverse impact of climate change on agriculture.

This phenomenon has helped push the organic coffee campaign over the past few months, according to Pacita Juan, president of the Figaro Coffee Foundation.

But while ordinary tree planting "assuages everyone's guilt," Juan says many farmers have also realized that coffee plantations provide a vital economic backbone to the re-greening movement because of the demand for quality coffee beans.

Crusade

Juan was here recently to sign a second agreement with the Benguet State University to embark on an organic coffee certification program, which will hopefully lead to the birth of the country's first organic coffee brand.

TREE/ B2-4

FIGARO officials are on a campaign to get Benguet coffee farmers to go organic.

PHOTOS BY EV ESPIRITU/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

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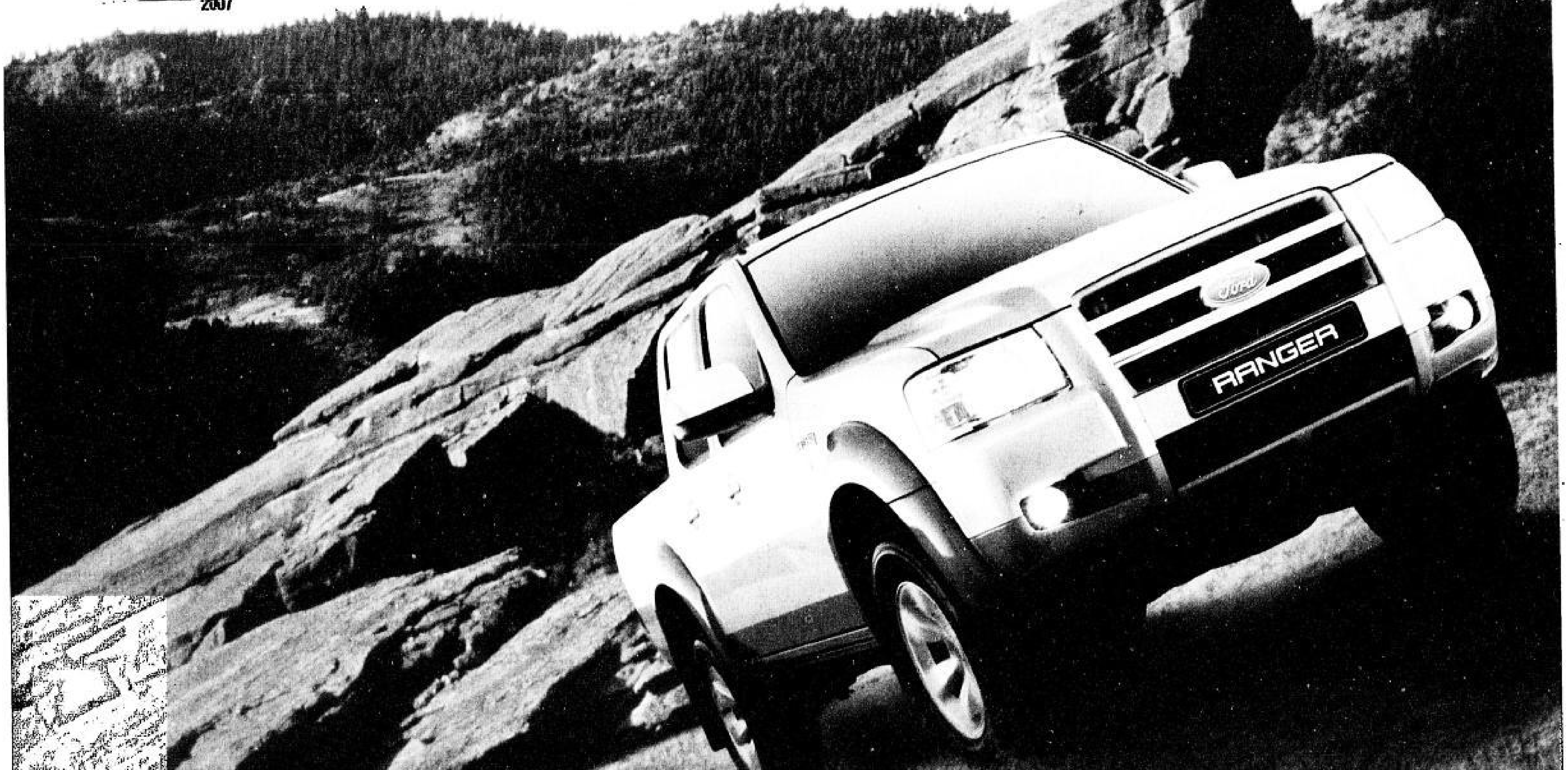

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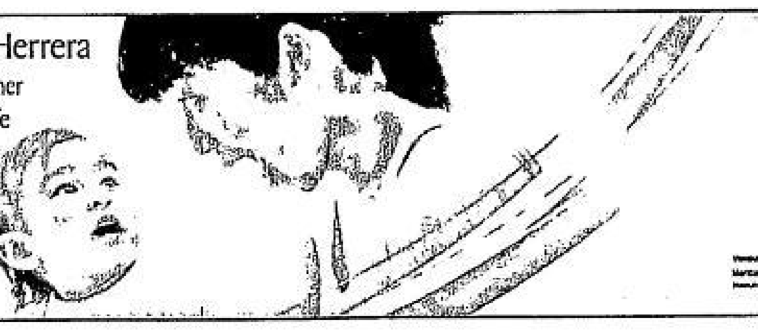
Anita Herrera
Self-Planner
Housewife



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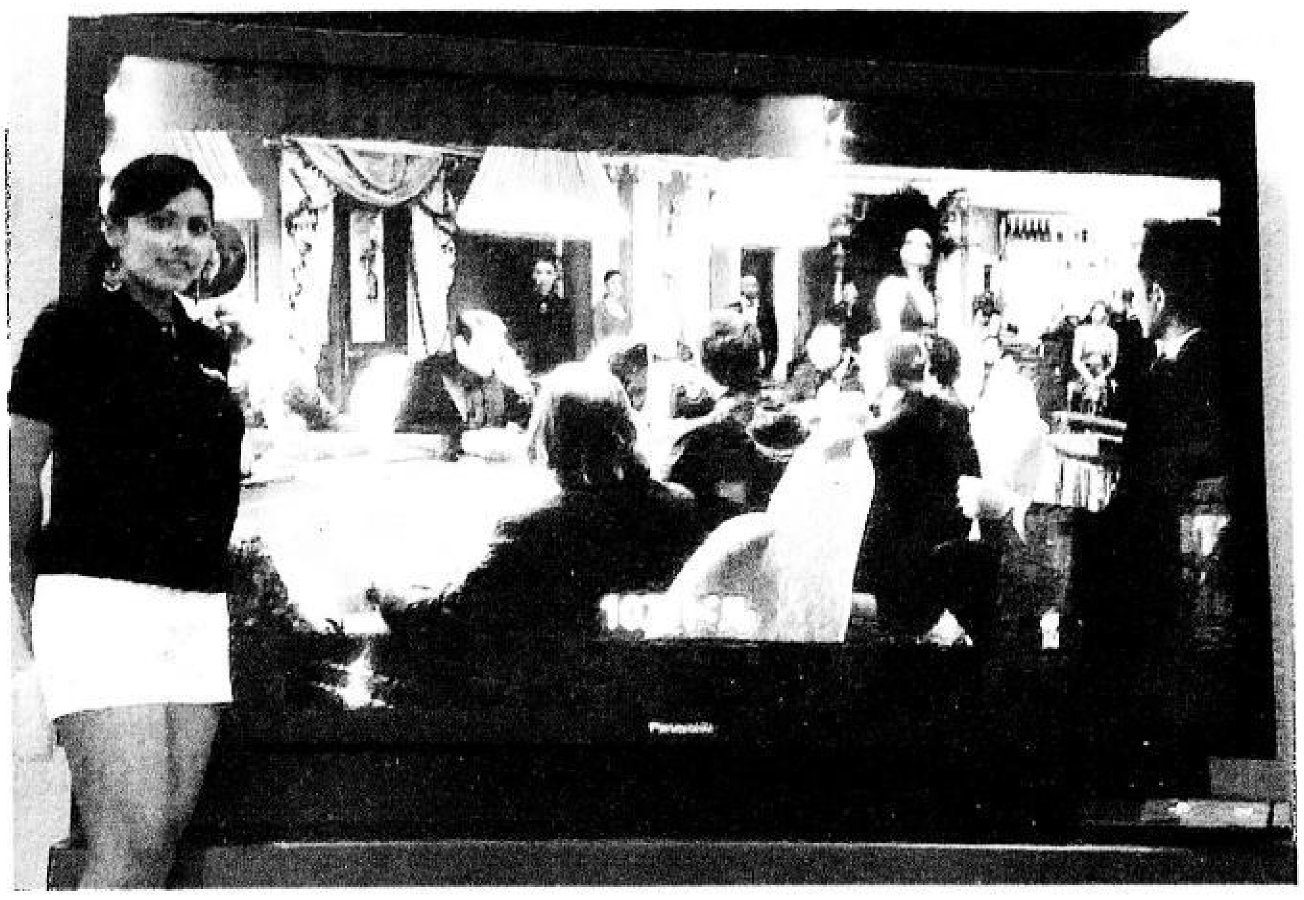
At 103 inches, plasma TV dwarfs all else



VIEWERS are treated to larger-than-life images with Panasonic's gigantic plasma display.

By Raquel P. Gomez

IS BIGGER REALLY BETTER? Panasonic proved that this is the case when it unveiled its 103-inch plasma display panel featuring more than two million pixels resolution at the Systems Integration Philippines Expo held recently at the World Trade Center.

Valued at P3 million plus and described as "Panasonic's pinnacle of achievement," the 103-inch plasma display panel is currently the largest commercially available plasma display in the world, according to Panasonic executives.

Introduced in the country last May, the 103-inch plasma display has been acquired by a couple of private users, who placed the humongous screens in their living rooms, according to Patrick Raz, Panasonic section manager.

Worldwide sales for this big plasma display panel with a hefty price tag have reached 1,500 units in 2006. Panasonic targets 5,000 units worldwide for this year.

Because of its super size, Panasonic's 103-inch plasma display is also targeted for companies who wish to advertise their brands or products in commercial areas like fastfood establishments.

Panasonic has already started its digital signage business, tapping into its range of plasma display panels.

"It's cheaper for advertisers to use plasma display panels for digital signage versus television commercials," says Raz.

Standing at 185 centimeters with a width of 224 centimeters, Panasonic's 103-inch plasma display panel produces full high definition (HD) resolution of 1920 x 1080 performance with a 261 cm. visible diagonal screen.

Raz says 10 to 12 people are needed to transport and install the display.

But since this country has yet to go HD format in TV broadcast, Raz suggests the use of yet-to-be-introduced-in-the-country blu-ray player and blu-ray discs for the 103-inch plasma display panel for a full satisfaction of a truly high definition (HD) experience.

Truly, this is the biggest and costliest TV set.

'Watchout' for high impact presentations

By Riza T. Olchondra

A MULTI-DISPLAY PRODUCTION and presentation technology called Watchout is now raising the bar on presentations, be it for corporate presentations or public demos.

The technology behind Watchout combines multiple projectors or other display devices with standard computer (PC or Macintosh) and network technologies to create presentations of virtually any size.

It can also combine various video formats, adjusting each one's resolution so that the resulting presentation looks as if it is coming from just one giant projector.

This is perfect for those who want high impact presentations, said Mart Miranda, president of Video Sonic Corporate Communications, one of the country's most-in-demand production companies.

"With Watchout, we no longer have to worry about image size and resolution," Miranda said. "We can now work with just about any venue configurations without sacrificing video and audio (quality)."

"The Philippine market is ready for Watchout. The take-up is currently limited to enterprises, big companies that have the marketing and advertising budget to burn. But we are also trying to increase awareness on Watchout's uses for public spaces, say, in modern art installations in museums and presentations in terminals."

The technology is not cheap to acquire, costing Miranda's company "millions."

Hence, it is also pricier than presentations for small boxy screens and may need customized production. But Miranda says companies that have tried it always come back for more.

Miranda explains that the high-impact presentations created on a large canvas or in unique layouts such as video cubes or 360-degree screens are actually much cheaper than spending on elaborate stage presentations with audio-video equipment, backdrops, props, combined with live performers.

"(It's because) the end-product is much more impressive, more flexible in blending live and pre-recorded materials," Miranda said. "Clients actually save on material that they can use more than once."

Watchout can be used with plasmas, monitors or video cubes to build a unique presentation set or with video projectors for giant, seamless panoramas for screens as large as 9x42 ft, 16x35ft or 24x40 ft.

Production

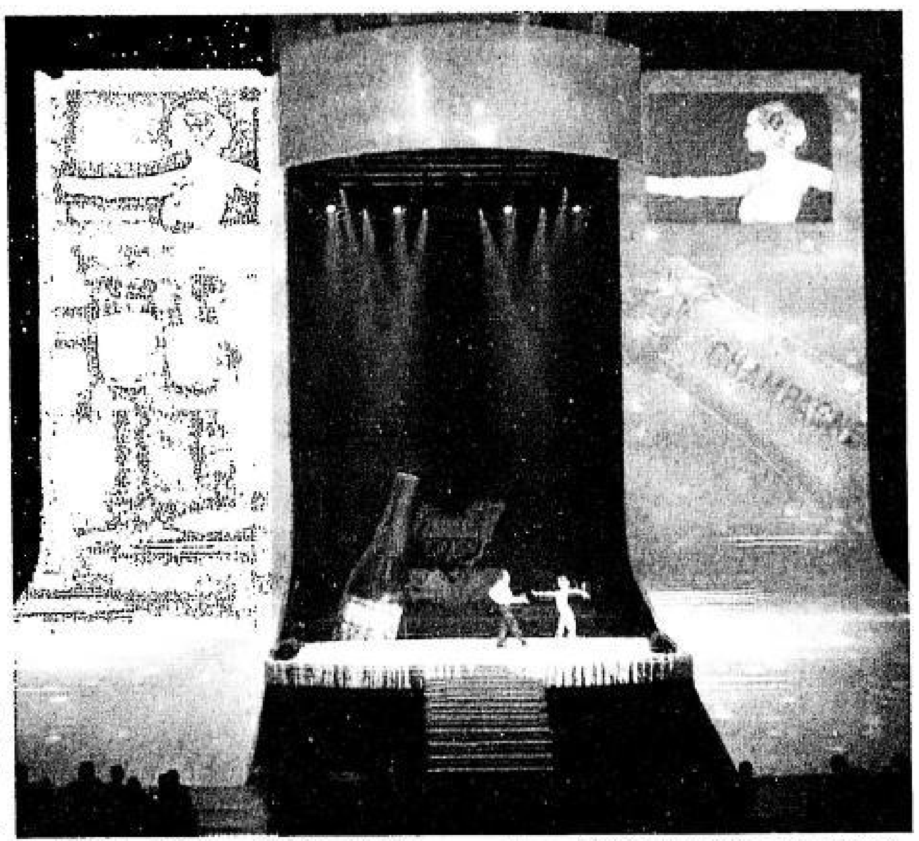
Watchout reads most media file formats for still images, video and audio. Produce text and images in Photoshop. Producers can create and edit video at any resolution in After Effects, Final Cut or similar software; mix multiple stereo or surround-sound audio files.

Watchout brings it all together, adding real-time effects such as motion paths, opacity, scaling, rotation, colorization, cropping, splitting image, distribution and volume.

"With Watchout, we can even project on corners without distortion," Miranda explains. "If needed, we can wrap the projection around the whole venue."

The production computer uses a timeline interface to build the show. It then distributes the media files through the network to the display computers during the presentation.

Each screen needs one projector or display computer. As more screens are added, presentors need to add more CPUs to drive those displays.



In the United States, the Rite Aid Pharmacy show of 2006 turns into a visual feast.

Presentation

Watchout combines multiple projectors, or other display devices, with standard computer and network technology to create presentations of virtually any size.

When the show runs, the production computer distributes the media files through the network of computer-controlled projectors.

The system utilizes the full resolution of existing projectors, monitors, video wall cubes or LEDs, resulting in a seamless image with the best resolution available. Overlapping projectors are automatically edge-blended. Watchout accounts for the gap between displays and allows the mixing of different pixel densities.

Projectors, monitors, video wall cubes or LEDs can be arranged at any angle, shape or form. Overlapping projectors are automatically edge-blended. Watchout accounts for the gap between displays and allows you to mix different pixel densities. The built-in mesh-warping geometry correction handles curved screens with ease.

Watchout can integrate live video feed from a video camera and accepts anything from composite and S-Video to 720 and 1080 HiDef using SDI inputs, all with the lowest possible latency. Bring in a live PowerPoint presentation, or another computer feed straight into the wide-screen presentation, with no problems.

The system connects to touch panels such as Touchdown, and other control systems, using TCP/IP, SMPTE timecode or serial data connections. This allows multiple display clusters at museums or other venues where independent display areas are needed. Built-in remote management functions allow interaction between the display computers.

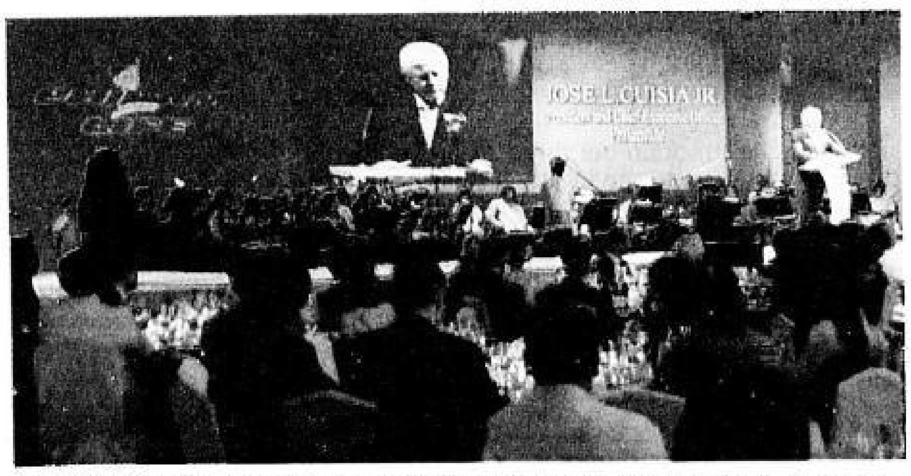
Watchout can also use a Pickup audio guide that adds personalized audio playback to the presentation. This is perfect for use at museums and other locations where individual, wireless or multi-lingual audio is required. Pickup provides high quality, audio playback for audio-guide applications, while also taking a cue from Watchout for synchronized sound.

One-stop shop

Video Sonic has been in the local advertising and corporate communication industry for 25 years and continues to grow internationally to meet the demand of the global market. It is one of the few production houses, if not the only one, who has launched its own breakthrough products such as the Eyemax, a giant screen video presentation facility that can be utilized as a backdrop, a giant outdoor billboard, or theatre-size video screen.

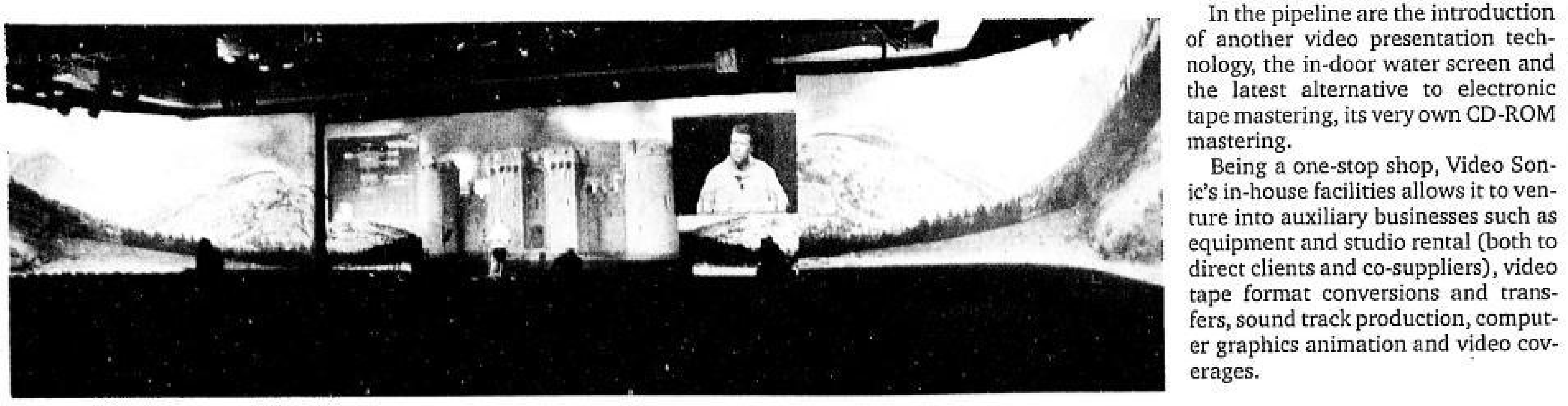
In the pipeline are the introduction of another video presentation technology, the in-door water screen and the latest alternative to electronic tape mastering, its very own CD-ROM mastering.

Being a one-stop shop, Video Sonic's in-house facilities allows it to venture into auxiliary businesses such as equipment and studio rental (both to direct clients and co-suppliers), video tape format conversions and transfers, sound track production, computer graphics animation and video coverages.



JOSE L. CUISIA JR.

PHILAM Life (above) is one of the first Philippine financial institutions to make use of the Watchout projection system during its recent 60th anniversary celebration. Below, AVNet's annual meeting in the US becomes a spectacle in itself.



Broadband providers should up capacity, says Globe

BROADBAND PROVIDERS WILL NEED about four times more capacity for Internet-based services by next year, Globe Telecom Inc. said.

Company officials believe that this is because more businesses and individuals are demanding undisrupted communication even during calamities, such as the recent earthquake off Taiwan.

"For the past two years we have seen demand for bandwidth double every six months," broadband and landline product head Rodrigo Perez said. "Last year our first-half subscription for broadband was around 45,000, and now it's around 90,000. It wouldn't be surprising if this doubled again."

Consumer broadband group head Ramon Antonio Pineda said Globe is willing to quadruple its capacity to meet surging demand for Internet-dependent activities.

Globe recently doubled the available bandwidth for heavy Internet users and introduced a residential wireless broadband package that runs on 3G.

The company's 768 kbps plan for wired Internet-only connections is now faster at 1.5 Mbps, for the same monthly fee of P995. The upgraded plan also comes with free 60 minutes of Wi-Fi and an e-mail account with 100 MB of space.

There is also a 3 Mbps Internet-only plan for P1,995 a month. It comes with 120 Wi-Fi minutes and three e-mail accounts of 100 MB each.

For Internet-and-landline bundles, the lowest bandwidth is 384 kbps, with 30 Wi-Fi minutes and a 50-MB e-mail account for P995 a month.

There is a 1-Mbps package with 60 Wi-Fi minutes and a 100-MB e-mail account for P1,295 a month. Globe also introduced for this segment a 2-Mbps package with 120 Wi-Fi minutes and three 100 MB email accounts for P1,995.

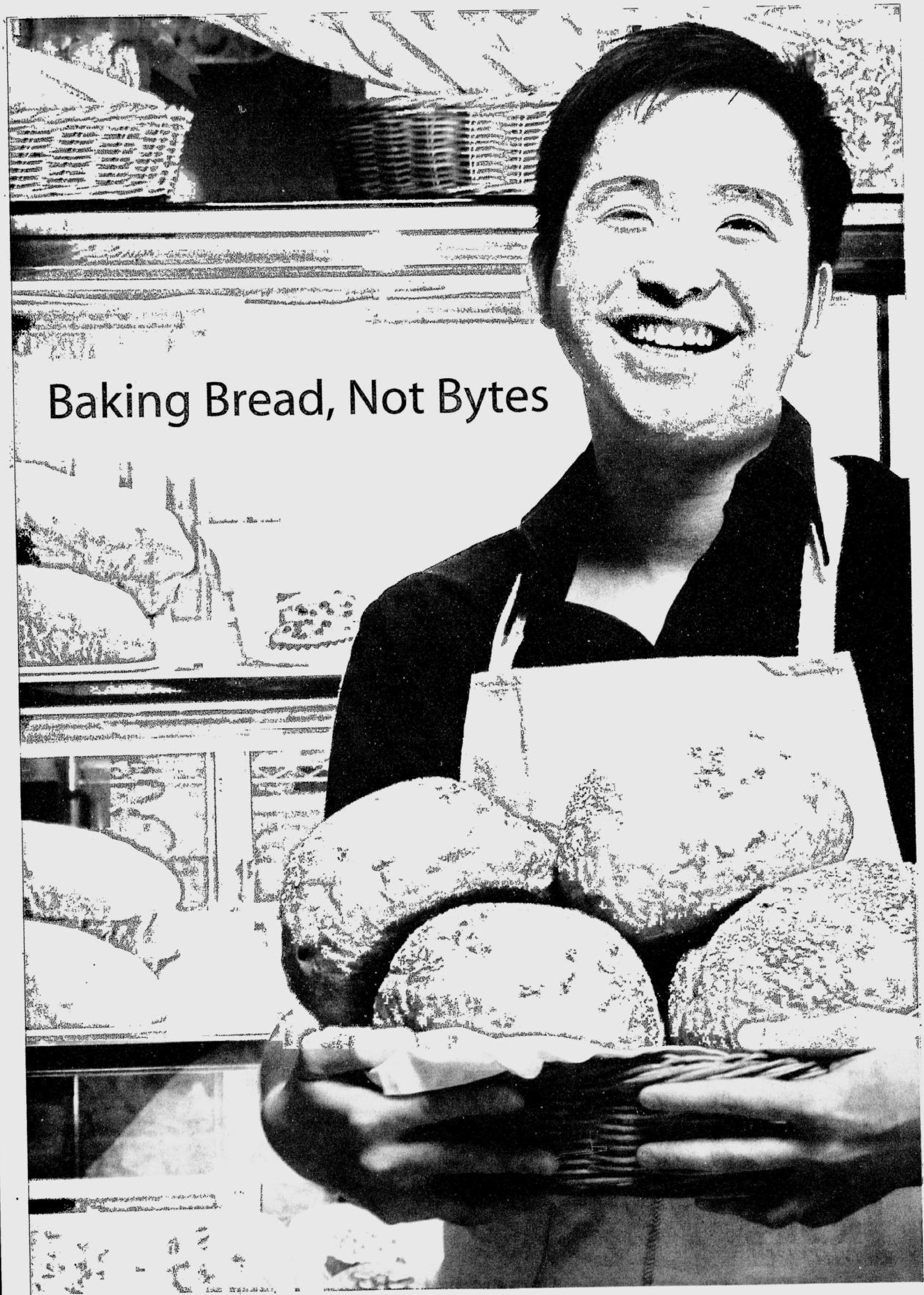
For 3G plans, the maximum speed is 512 kbps. The Internet-only plan goes for P995 a month. Globe can also throw in a landline for consumers willing to fork out P1,295 a month.

"We are also working with IT companies, such as Intel and Microsoft, for computer-bundled packages," Pineda said.

Globe earlier signed up as the exclusive landing party for the trans-Pacific cable project spearheaded by VSNL International, a member of the Tata Group of India, which will link Asia directly to the US through an undersea cable system.

The local telco disclosed that it was spending P9 billion for the cable system. Rival Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., on the other hand, is investing in a separate undersea cable system and is also offering broadband plans. *By Riza T. Olchondra*

B2-3



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No bargaining with safety in RP malls

Retail firms invest in fire prevention, security equipment to protect shoppers

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

MALLS AND OTHER RETAIL establishments are always confronted with the temptation to cut corners and save on fire safety and security costs.

After all, millions of pesos are required to put in all of the required fire safety and security equipment, which may never even be used, and this does not include the attached maintenance and training costs.

But the Philippines' biggest retail companies realize that the cost of an actual fire or criminal incident is much more severe—not just in terms of damage to property, but more importantly, the impact on their reputation.

This is why they consider investments in making sure they meet or even exceed Philippine standards on fire safety and security systems as money well spent.

Strict standards

Mall operators and retail companies have different ways of meeting their fire and security requirements, but all declare that they first adhere to the strict building standards and regulations required under the law.

Bienvenido Tantoco III, chief executive of the Shopwise and Rustans supermarkets, said in an interview that all seven Shopwise and 21 Rustan Supermarket supermarkets have the required sprinkler systems, fire extinguishers and unobstructed fire exits provided by the Fire Safety Code of the Philippines and the company makes sure they work.

"All our fire equipment undergo regular checks and tests to ensure that these are all working properly. We do annual testing of sprinkler systems and fire hoses, twice-a-year checks for the fire alarm system and monthly testing of fire extinguishers," Tantoco said.

The Ayala malls also comply with fire safety standards and guidelines, and the Ayala group makes sure that the compliance extends to the tenant, contractors and suppliers.

"We ensure that there is adherence to the safety standards by conducting regular inspections together with external parties. What is of utmost importance is that we do due diligence particularly before the store or the mall is completed," said Ayala vice president Rowena Tomeldan.

The Walter Mart group of department stores likewise conducts regular testing of its equipment to ensure that these will work during a fire, and has even put in place an emergency response team that is activated in case an emergency occurs.

Operating manuals

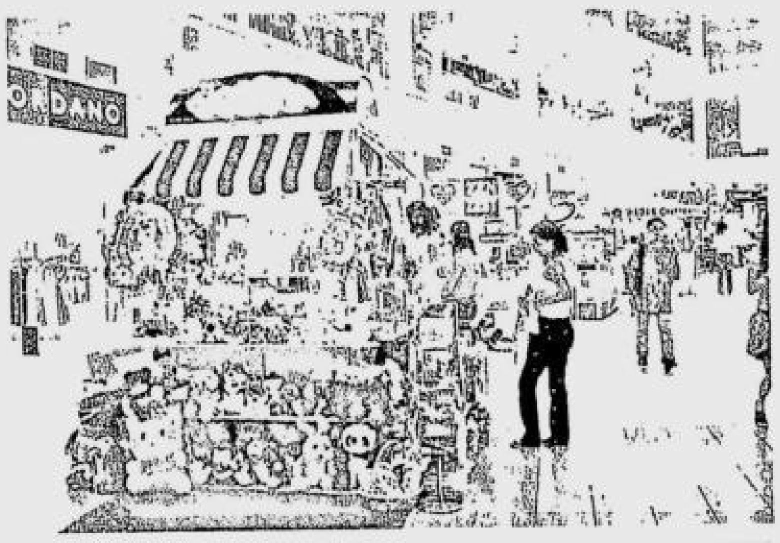
"We have an operating manual on the what-to-dos during an emergency and each member has his own assigned task. Once a month, there is a retraining of the group and the tenants' employees are also included in the training," explained Walter Mart general manager Elmer de Leon.

De Leon added that the Walter Mart malls conduct fire drills once a year in coordination with the local Bureau of Fire Protection to make sure that the mall management and tenants' employees know how to use the fire extinguisher and other fire suppression equipment, such as hoses, in case a fire occurs.

Experience

Most malls have already put their fire equipment to the test and have come out on top.

De Leon said Walter Mart has gone through one fire caused by an overheated piece of equipment owned by one of the tenants.



CONSUMERS naturally flock to malls that can guarantee their safety

Walter Mart
MAKATI
SALE

THE WALTER MART and Shopwise groups conduct regular testing of fire-fighting equipment

The fire was quickly controlled because the smoke and heat detectors worked and the sprinkler system kicked in. The fire department was also quick to the scene, which was why the fire did not spread.

The Ayala group has also had experience fighting fires.

"In general, we are at risk given the nature of operations where we have restaurants that have LPG tanks, and in case of the malls, have fuels for the generators. But more importantly, in all cases, we have been able to contain the fire immediately, which demonstrates our preparation for these kinds of crises," Tomeldan said.

Security

Such training and preparedness is also applied to the security aspect of operations, which includes equipment and personnel needed to keep mall customers safe from criminal elements.

For the Ayala group, security equipment includes walk-through detectors (similar to what are used in international airports); metal detectors, crowd control barricades, K9 dogs and patrol vehicles.

The Greenhills Shopping Center, on the other hand, which caters to over 100,000 shoppers a day during weekdays and 150,000 shoppers during weekends, boasts of having the most closed circuit television cameras with 123, with 14 monitors of nine frames per monitor.

Greenhills also claims to have the most security guards, sniff dogs and janitors per 1,000 square meters of shopping space. It even has its exclusive police precincts with up to 26 policemen on duty at any one time.

"We, the professional management team that came in after October 2001, made sure that our merchant and shopper security protection would be state of the art and industry-leading," said Joey Santos, general manager of the Greenhills Shopping Center.

Well prepared

Top management of malls and retail centers goes to great lengths to ensure that they are well prepared for emergencies because they feel that fire safety is a crucial part of retail operations, because the sense of security keeps customers within their doors.

Tantoco said security differentiates one retail establishment from another because not all can assure their customers' safety.

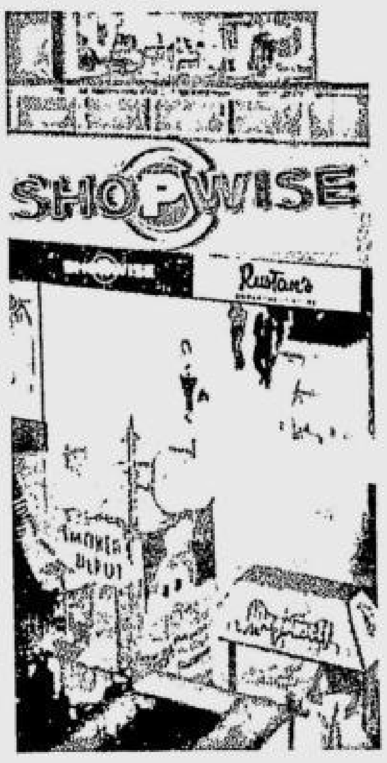
"It is very critical that a store can earn the trust of the customer and ensure that he or she will be protected from all criminal elements and hazards while inside the premises of the store," Tantoco said.

Walter Mart's De Leon agreed, adding that the cost of being ill-prepared can be considerable.

"A fire will disrupt not only the owner/developer/operator but also the tenants in the center and the hundreds of employees that are employed. Not only is the loss calculated in terms of property lost, but also the lost business opportunities," De Leon added.

He also said that the prospective retail tenants likewise look at these fire and security measures when deciding where to lease mall space.

But in the end, it is really the customers who provide the incentive for the malls to invest considerable money in fire safety and security.



"Security and safety are important factors that attract customers to a shopping center. It is just natural for customers to shy away from a shopping center that has histories of untoward incidents," he said.

"Customers regard malling as a family affair and bring along their children to the malls. If there is perception of lack of security, these groups will not go to the shopping center," De Leon added.

Tomeldan of the Ayala group shares the sentiment.

"Customers go to our malls because they feel safe and secure. Since shopping is now a leisure activity, it is of utmost importance that our shoppers have peace of mind while shopping and dining in our malls," Tomeldan said.

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Tree planting is in

From page B2-1

Figaro has been leading a crusade to encourage the country's farmers to produce organic coffee beans, which command a higher price than ordinary coffee beans.

The country's biggest local coffee chain subscribes to the quality standards of Naturland, a European organic certification program.

Figaro has already organized organic coffee farmers in Tanudan, Kalinga; Lagawe, Ifugao; Tublay, Benguet; and around Mount Kanlaon in Negros Occidental.

Bad weather

Juan says the weather has not been too kind to farmers, especially when typhoons "Chedeng," "Dodong," and "Egay" hit the country.

This can only be explained by global warming, which has compelled Filipinos to finally support the re-greening of the forests, she says.

The sprouting of coffee shops in the region, particularly in Baguio City, has also made it easier to convince farmers to go organic.

BSU president Dr. Ricardo Colting says many coffee farmers have been making a lot of money selling their beans to small coffee retailers.

TREE PLANTING is now a fad, said Figaro president Chit Juan

There is a lot of interest in Arabica beans, which are abundant in high-altitude areas like Benguet, Colting says.

BSU itself expects to profit from coffee after being selected as the latest retail outpost for organic coffee grown by Figaro's partner-cooperatives.

Roland Ferstl, Figaro's German consultant on organic coffee certification, says the region's coffee plantations are "de facto organic" because of how indigenous communities produce them.

"But we need to prove [they are organic]. We need to show the process of how we grow our beans," Ferstl says.

Once proof is in place, Philippine organic coffee stands a very good chance of making it into European markets.

If the coffee industry has one weakness, it is quality control, he says.

"We cannot export beans that are broken, beans that are burned. We must have a careful hauling system during harvests," he says. "Figaro's partner cooperatives have started to implement new harvesting technology that solves this industry dilemma."

e-Government vs e-Governance

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Virgilio L. Peña

E-GOVERNMENT AND E-GOVernance have been used interchangeably by many quarters. But is there really a difference? My proposition is that there is a world of difference between the two terms.

For one thing, e-governance does not only apply to government, but also to any entity or institution, even a family. It is the ability and the responsibility of leaders to "govern " their institutions.

Key differences

The letter "e," as a prefix to it, just means that the manner in which an institution is governed has been ICT-enabled.

If a housewife uses a computer to manage her household and food expenses, then, by definition, she is practicing e-Governance.

E-government, on the other hand, applies to how government agencies have effectively developed "computerized" systems.

For instance, it is much easier these days to renew a driver's license and get an NBI clearance.

This only means that both LTO and NBI have implemented e-government in their driver's license and clearance processes.

However, can they also claim that they have e-governance in place? Partially, maybe yes, but completely, perhaps not.

The process of issuing a driver's license is merely a piece of the process of allowing a citizen to operate a vehicle.

Governance means the agency also has the responsibility to make sure that the person is fit to drive.

There are other processes that ensure this: the driving test conducted for new applicants, a drug test, and a physical check-up.

How is this done now: the applicant carries a piece of paper from each of these offices and submits them to the appropriate window for license processing. But if the results of the persons' tests are recorded automatically into a database which is accessible to the person receiving the drivers license applications, then he or she can proceed with processing the license without the applicant submitting pieces of paper.

Customer focus

Only when this happens can we declare that we have elevated e-government to e-governance.

I have seen the two terms also differentiated as follows: "e-governance is about transforming the relationship between governments and their citizens through the use of information technologies, and that e-government is about delivering government services using information technologies."

Governance, as defined and used by the corporate world, talks about the responsibility and accountability of leadership to protect the interest of all its stakeholders. Many of them, in fact, are now focused on one stakeholder—their customers.

Corporate strategy has shifted to ensuring that the most important stakeholders of the business are satisfied: their customers. Most of them have used ICT to accomplish this. This is very apparent in the banking sector where most transactions, even payment of utility bills, can be done at home through the Internet.

But what about government service: who is the "customer" of government—obviously, all of us—as citizens. More than that, each of us is a stakeholder of government twice over. Not only are we customers, we are also owners since we provide the capital for government to exist through our taxes.

The question is: Is government, through its services, looking after our interest as stakeholders.

As in the banking sector, can I now transact my business with government at home in my computer rather than lining up in a government office to get my birth certificate, NBI clearance, driver's license, real property tax payments, passports, etc., etc., etc.

After all, the relationship of citizens with government starts at birth and ends with one's death, sometimes even beyond.

This is what e-governance is all about. Its more than just implementing computerized systems in government, it's about "transforming the relationship between governments and their citizens."

This transformation can only happen when, through the use of ICT, all government agencies will start treating all citizens dealing with them in the same manner that the corporate world treats its customers: where their convenience and satisfaction, become the overarching goal of the institution.

This transformation requires a complete paradigm shift.

When the DFA issues a passport to a citizen, it needs to understand that it bears the burden of proving identity through a birth certificate.

Government responsibility

E-governance makes this possible if the DFA database is connected to the NCSO and NBI databases. This relieves the citizen of the effort of having to go to these agencies to acquire information for DFA to use.

Government owes this to its most important stakeholder.

So, are e-government and e-governance interchangeable terms? Obviously not. Perhaps we can then say that e-government is the means to achieving e-governance.

(The article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines. The author is a member of the MAP committee on good governance and a Fellow of the Institute of Corporate Directors. He is the former chairman of the Commission on ICT. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph)

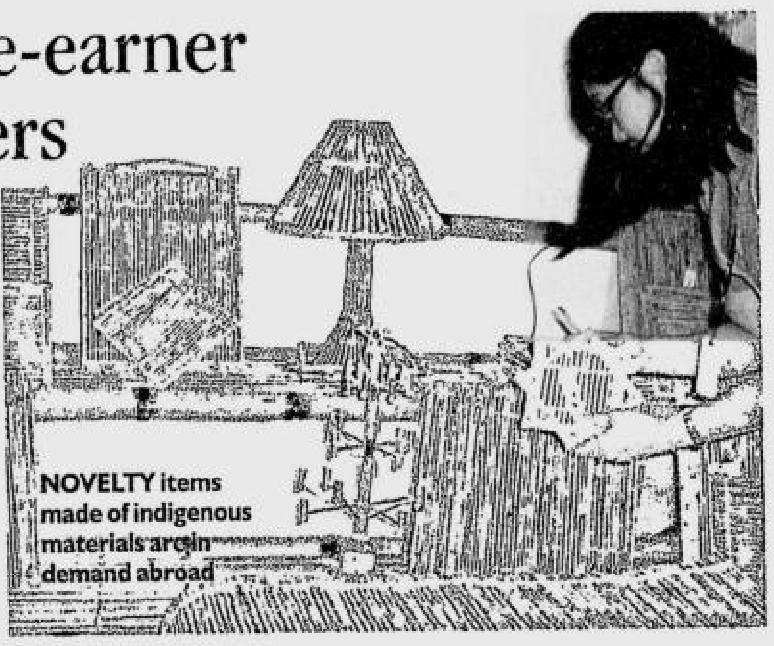
Talahib is income-earner for Isabela villagers

From page B2-6

Ben Lazaro, a group leader in charge of overseeing production, says the group has learned its lesson from its early days when the first sets of products were returned due to poor quality.

He says that since then, the group has tried to learn more and perfect their craft through support and training from government agencies.

The group's officials have also sought marketing partners in Metro Manila who now order P160,000 worth of products a month.



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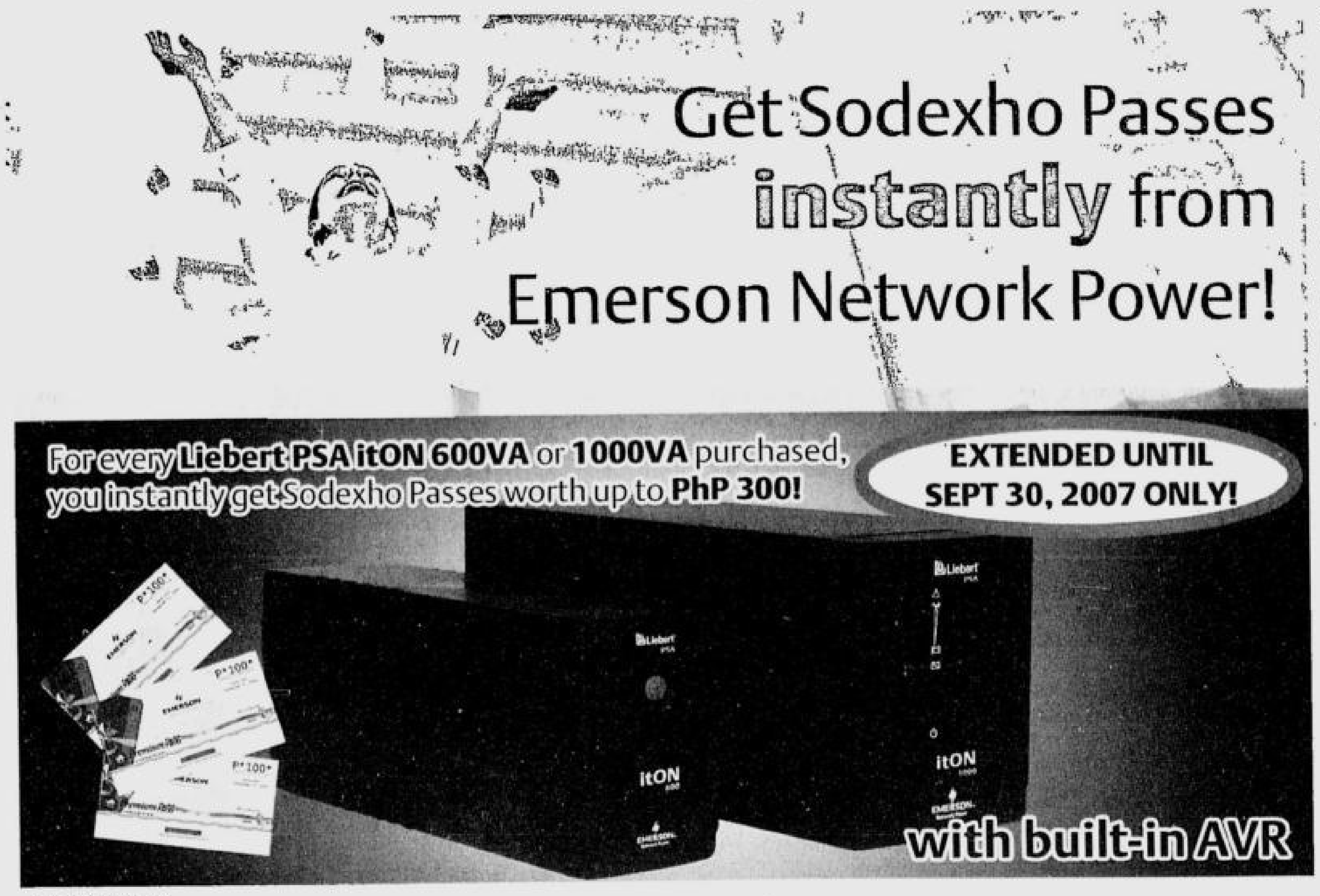
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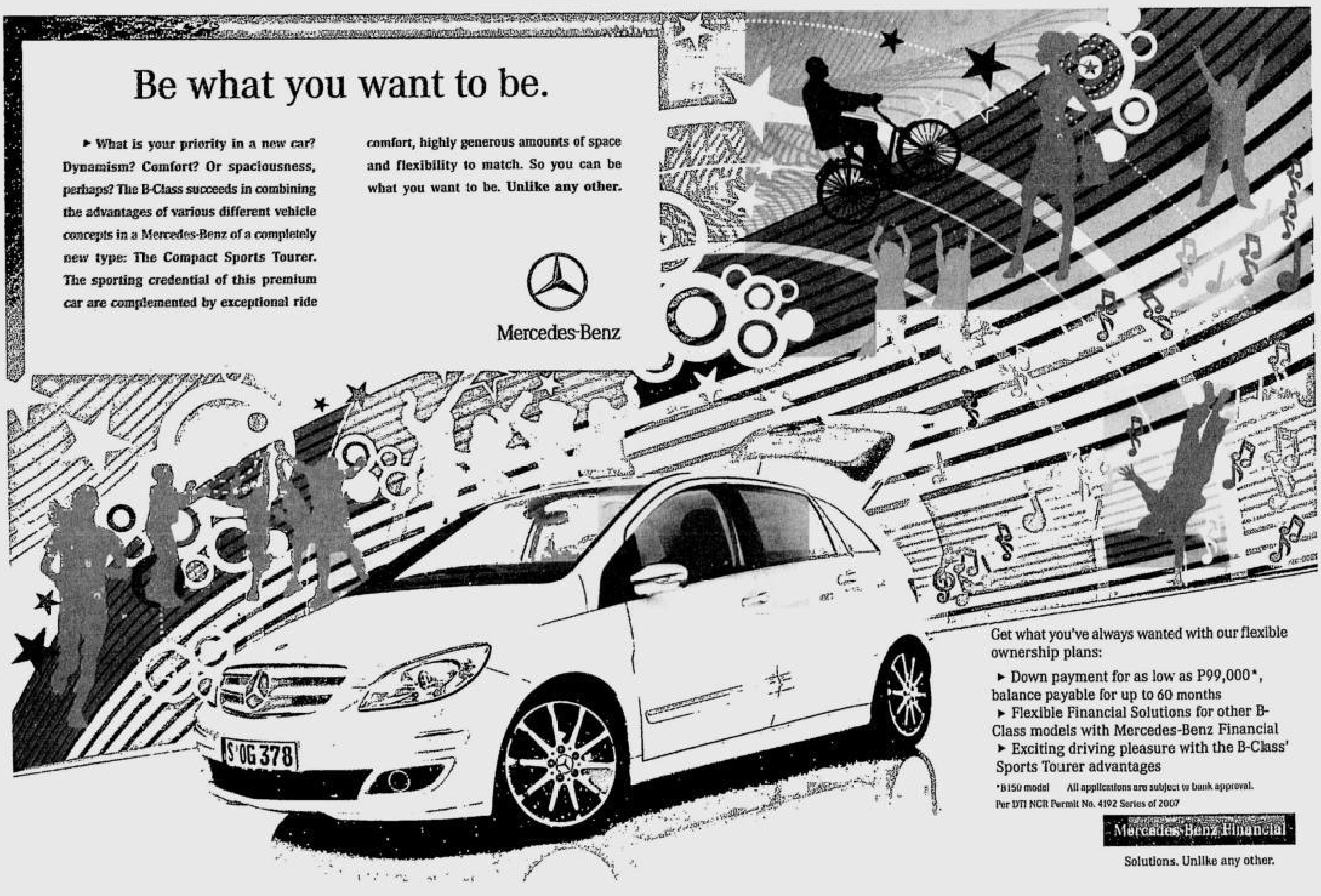
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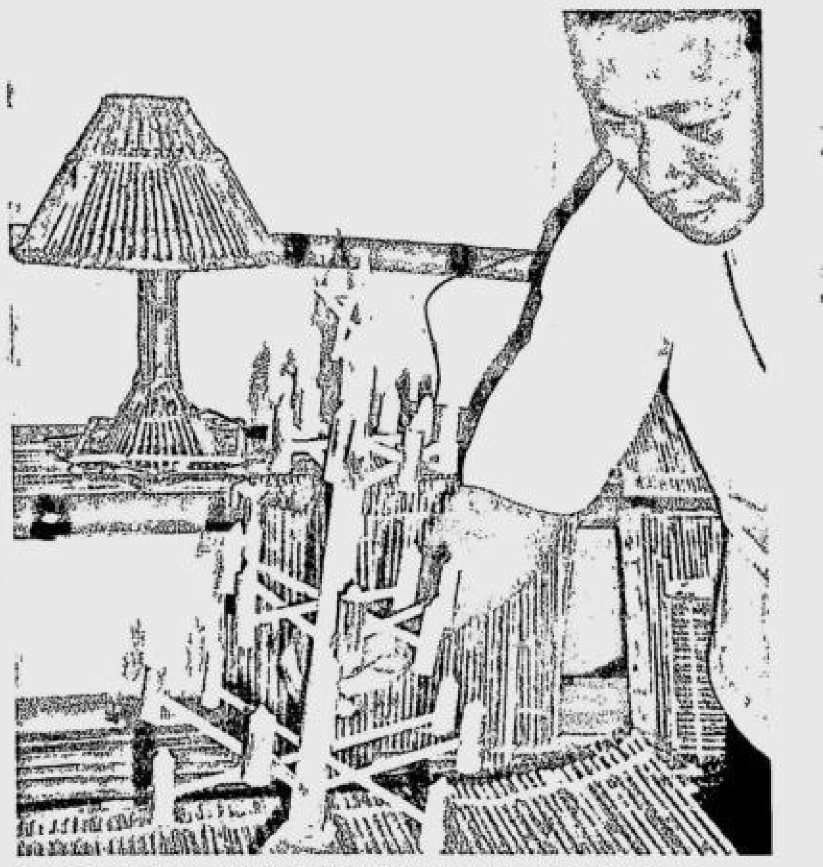

ISABELA folk are weaving their way to more income thanks to the native talahib and bamboo.

VILLAMOR VISAYA JR. / INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Talahib is income-earner for Isabela villagers

By Villamor Visaya Jr.
Inquirer Northern Luzon

JONES, ISABELA—TALAHIB (cogon), a weed that grows abundantly in this interior town but largely ignored by residents, is providing livelihood to weavers in 42 villages here.

Jovito Uy Sr., former municipal planning and development coordinator here, says the project, which uses talahib in handicraft making, earned the town a Galing Pook Award in 1997 for tapping indigenous resources to augment livelihood opportunities in the rural areas.

Uy, who heads an association of village-based weavers formed in 1992, says his group started with a P100,000 capital from the Jones government to finance the group's participation in trade fairs and delivery and marketing of products.

Among the items marketed by Jones Integrated Handicraft Products are trays, utility baskets and boxes, place mats, wall decors, candleholders, lampshades, multipurpose racks, blinds, hot pads and other household items made from woven talahib stalks.

Uy says the group's products have reached specialty markets in Japan, the United States and parts of Europe, where the demand for indigenous items is high.

Councilor Rodrigo Manuel says that before the project was launched, farmers and residents burned the talahib as they considered these a nuisance to their farms.

Today, the group has aligned itself with the Cagayan Valley Gifts, Toys and Houseware Association to more aggressively market its products.

Delia Rumbaoa, a weaver, says each worker can earn as much as P5,000 a month from handicraft making.

She says this is enough to augment their income from seasonal farming.

Uy says his group sells the products in local outlets at affordable prices.

A wall décor, candleholder or a candy basket sells for P150 each while a lampshade fetches P700. Other items are within the P150 to P400 range.

Mayor Florante Raspado says the local government has been subsidizing the project to encourage villagers to improve their craft and create alternative jobs in farming villages.

"This project has helped Jones villagers avoid vices. They are more productive now," Raspado says.

Jones, he adds, is blessed with raw materials like cogon and bamboo that can be used by residents to boost their income.

He says many residents are lured into the business as they practically spend nothing for talahib stalks, except when these are gathered from private lands where they have to pay a minimal fee.

"These materials help residents develop their ingenuity and self-reliance," Raspado says.

The handicraft makers also get ample technical and training support from the Technical Education, Skills and Development Authority, and the Departments of Trade and Industry and Science and Technology.

"The workers would ensure that the items are carefully done. Quality control team members see to it that the items are free from defects so that these will not be returned by subcontractors or sales agents," says Ariel Nera, a member of the association.

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THE TIPLES have sung uninterruptedly since 1588.

The sound of Tiples

Tiples de Santo Domingo, the country's oldest and most renowned boys' choir, holds a concert on Sept. 15

HOMEY TIPLES. Today's choirboys no longer board at the Sto. Domingo convent, but they still feel right at home when rehearsing.

By Dexter R. Matilla
Contributor

WILLIAM WORDSWORTH said, "Heaven lies about us in our infancy"—and the closest anyone can feel heavenly bliss may be during a person's formative years. Such would probably best describe the sentiments of current and former Tiples de Sto. Domingo choristers.

Tiples de Sto. Domingo traces its roots in 1588, when Fr. Pedro Bolaños, OP, who had arrived in the country the year before, put together a boys' choir to sing at the newly constructed Sto. Domingo Church in Intramuros.

The members had ages 7-15. They were unique in that they had high-pitched voices

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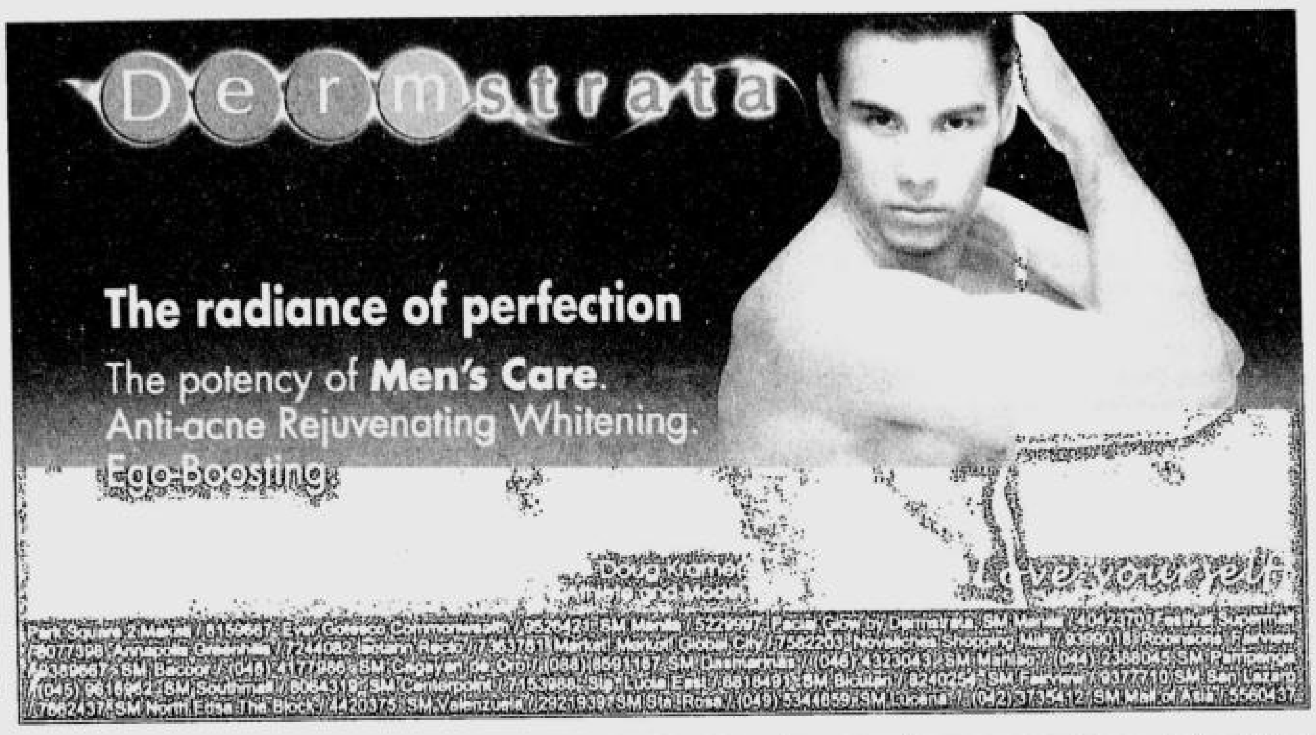
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The PWU School of Music is marking its 60th year with a remounting of the opera, 'Mayo... Bisperas ng Liwanag,' while St. Scholastica's College will mark its 100th year with a commemorative concert at St. Cecilia's Hall

CARMEN Padilla, Rosemarie Santos, Maryann Armovit, Cristina Bichara, Marian Fajardo, Leonor Kilayko, Anamaria de Guzman, Mary Anne Espina and Della Besa in the Nov. 25 St. Cecilia's concert

Let us now praise music schools

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

THIS IS THE YEAR WHEN MUsic teachers, music graduates and performing artists are taking time out to remember pioneers in music education.

In 2006, the University of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music, founded by Fr. Gregorio Garcia, OP, marked its 60th year with a grand production of Tchaikovsky's "Eugene Onegin."

This year, the School of Music of the Philippine Women's University, founded by Dean Felicing Tirona, is also marking its 60th year with a remounting of a Filipino opera, "Mayo... Bisperas ng Liwanag," with music by Rey Paguio and libretto by Fides Cuyugan Asensio.

Although Asensio is associated with University of the Philippines where she has taught for many years, she is really a graduate of PWU, just like Australia-based conductor Julian Quirit and the late violinist Carmencita Lozada.

The presidential table in the recent presscon for the revival of the Paguio-Asensio opera was full of women with secure places in history.

PWU music head Harold Galang acknowledged the support of PWU education icon and former senator Helena Benitez (hale and up at 93); former PWU alumna and First Lady Imelda Marcos, who was a voice student of professor Adoracion Reyes (just like Irene M. Araneta); and PWU head Amelou B. Reyes, who said that, by staging the Filipino opera, "we are living the hallmark of PWU's passion for quality and commitment in treasuring the Filipino cultural heritage."

Asensio, who sang, breathed, taught and lived opera for decades, admitted the state of Filipino opera was not very positive. "Struggling," she said pointblank.

I told her Filipino opera connoisseurs liked to hear their operas in Italian and would probably think thrice before buying tickets to a Filipino opera.

Marcos, who mounted the record-breaking 1979 San Francisco Opera production of "Tosca" with Placido Domingo in Manila, said media should help promote Filipino operas because they were our very own.

"I have invited a lot of first-rate international artists but I did not neglect our very own," said Marcos. "The most powerful thing in the world is not money but the media. They can do or undo you even beyond the grave. Now I challenge you to promote Filipino operas and not just linger on my being eternally Imeldific."

Based on the Nick Joaquin short story "May Day Eve," "Mayo... Bisperas ng Liwanag" will showcase the vocal talents of Kitchie Molina and Elites Carino (Anastacia), Ana Feleo (Agueda) and Jonathan Badon (Salvador Montiya). Others in the cast are Cynthia Guico, Lena Mckenzie, Armin Comon, Laarni Losala, Marvin Gayramon and the Chameleon Dancers.

Harold Galang is musical director and conductor.

Proceeds from the production will go to the Felicing Tirona Memorial Scholarship Fund and for the acquisition of musical instruments for the planned PWU School of Music Orchestra.

By coincidence, the opera revival will also serve as a post-birthday celebration for the PWU dean emeritus, Lucrecia R. Kasilag, who turned 90 Friday last week.

CAST of "Mayo... Bisperas ng Liwanag"

Special concert

Meanwhile, the School of Music of St. Scholastica's College (SSC) will mark its 100th year with a special concert honoring Sister Baptista Battig, the Benedictine nun from Silesia, Germany, who started the first formal piano lessons in the country.

The music school was founded in Tondo in 1907 and later transferred to its present Singalong location. It became SSC's first School of Music, now headed by Sister Mary Placid Abejo, OSB.

"Sister Battig practically started the first music school in the country," pointed out pianist Anamaria Gregorio de Guzman, who will join 14 other musicians in the commemorative concert in St. Cecilia's Hall Nov. 25.

Among the pianists joining the concert are Mary Ann Rivas Armovit, Della Gamboa Besa, Cristina Carrion Bichara, Mary Anne Espina, Marianne Fajardo, Leonor Kilayko, Zenas Reyes Lozada, Carmen Dayrit Padilla and Rose Marie Santos de la Paz.

The concert will also see the special participation of violinists Sara Maria Gonzales, Denise Santos Huang, Regina Medina and Divina Juanita Francisco Salonga, with the Manila Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Arturo Molina.

Said De Guzman: "What everyone will hear in the Nov. 25 concert are the musical children of Sister Baptista from several generations. It is a fulfillment of what she had desired, which was to see the children of the East rise in the musical world to the same level as those in the West."

Bacolod music-making

The vocal event of the year in Bacolod City will take place on Sept. 7, 7 p.m., at L'Fisher Hotel Ballroom in Bacolod City.

It will feature distinguished baritone Noel Azcona, who had a memorable "Pearl Fishers" duet with world-acclaimed Filipino tenor Otoniel Gonzaga at Philamlife Theater and at CCP last year.

SOPRANO Nenen Espina

The concert will also feature soprano Nenen Espina and pianist Mary Anne Espina, both of whom happen to be from Bacolod City.

When Gonzaga (who is from Iloilo) performed for the first time with Azcona and Espina the other year, the Filipino tenor told his excited Manila audience: "Believe it or not, you are listening to the Ilongo Mafia. I am from Iloilo and so is Azcona, and my pianist comes from Bacolod City!"

Azcona also shared in the standing ovation accorded Gonzaga and Lea Salonga in the Best of the Philippines Gala concert with the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra last year.

Nenen Espina, who is a past winner of the National Music Competition for Young Artists, just sang a special role in the Philippine premiere of Tchaikovsky's "Eugene Onegin" and received rave reviews for her portrayal of Suzuki in the last CCP production of "Madame Butterfly," where she shared the stage with world-class Cio Cio San from Japan. Yoko Watanabe.

As for Espina, the Negrenses realized how good she was when she shared the standing ovation given to Romanian violinist Alexandru Tomescu at the Provincial Capitol Social Hall in March this year.

The Sept. 7 Bacolod concert is for the benefit of the Negros Cultural Foundation.

Call (034) 4680286 or 09065104270.

The sound of Tiples

From page C1

(*tiple* in Spanish means the highest pitch of the human voice), and they would sing in veneration of the Virgin of the Holy Rosary of La Naval.

Eugene De Los Santos, former a Tiples member (1990-1994) and now the choirmaster (2000-present), remembers how as a young boy he excitedly looked forward to the feast of the Our Lady of La Naval.

"I took pride in the fact that the Tiples played a significant part in the celebration and this role dates back hundreds of years ago," De Los Santos writes in "The Saga of La Naval: Triumph of a People's Faith," the massive book that will be released in time for the 100th anniversary of the canonical coronation of Our Lady of La Naval next month.

"However, I realized that more than anything else, more pride lay in knowing that I had developed a special devotion to Our Lady of La Naval. I guess this is true for anyone who at one time or another has been a member of the Tiples de Sto. Domingo. How else would you explain the yearnings to go back year after year during La Naval festivities even after you have graduated from Tiples?"

War and after

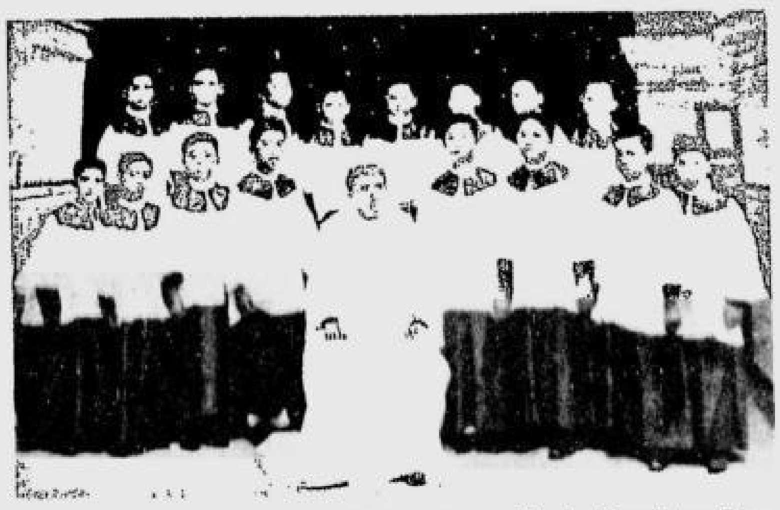
During World War II, the Sto. Domingo church was destroyed and the image of the Virgin of the Holy Rosary was transferred to the University of Santo Tomas chapel. According to De Los Santos, there are claims that the Dominican priests then created a Tiples group that would sing for the Virgin of the Holy Rosary during its stay in UST (probably the "Tiples de Sto. Tomas").

When the current Sto. Domingo Church was erected in Quezon City in 1954, the famous La Naval icon was relocated there, and the church also became the national shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary. Also moving there were the Tiples, under Fr. Marcelino Diaz, OP.

They therefore regained their old name, Tiples de Sto. Domingo. Eventually, children in the nearby areas were recruited to the choir. Those who could not afford education were provided for.

Based on the Reglamentos de los Tiples de Santo Domingo, believed to have been written in the late 1800s, members of the Tiples lived the life similar to seminarians—they were housed within the convent's compound; they followed strict schedules; and they were reared in Christian values. Today, however, the Tiples do not board with the convent; the practice was stopped in the early 1990s. De Los Santos said that one of the main reasons for this is the rising cost of sustaining a Tiples House.

Despite this, members of the choir have remained steadfast and dedicated. They still keep up with their practice schedules as well as their services to the church, with the quality of their singing still at par with some of the world's most popular boys' choirs, including the Sistine Chapel choir, Spain's Montserrat Boys' choir, the Paris Little Singers and the Vienna Boys' choir.



THE TIPLES at the turn of the 20th century, with the Dominican friar Primo Calzado as choirmaster.

TIPLES circa late 19th century

"PHILIPPINE Idol" finalist Gian Carlo Magdangal, a Tiples alumnus, will perform with the choir.

Marian concert

One need not go to Europe, however, to have the chance to listen to the wonderful singing voices of boy choristors that could only be described as angelic. In celebration of the Centenary of the Canonical Coronation of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary-La Naval de Manila, the Tiples de Sto. Domingo will be performing on Sept. 15 at the Philamlife Auditorium on United Nations Avenue, Ermita. titled "The Saga of La Naval: Triumph of the People's Faith, Tiples de Sto. Domingo Concert '07."

The major concert will feature the famous Tiples singing "Ave Maria," "Misa Brevis," "O Beata Mater" and a medley of theme songs from animated feature films. On the organ/piano is Michael Richard Lopez. De los Santos will conduct.

Guest performers include Azer Dauz, Thea Perez, "Philippine Idol" finalists Gian Carlo Magdangal, a former Tiples member, and Jan Nieto.

Also performing are the UST Symphony Orchestra and Sto. Domingo Male Chorale (SDMC), composed of former Tiples de Sto. Domingo members who had naturally lost their high-pitched voices but still sing together in the service of the Church.

Formed in 1978 by eight "ex-Tiples" SDMC became the only non-European group to join the International Polyphonic Competition or Guido d' Arezzo in the sacred music category in 2002.

Throughout the years, Tiples de Sto. Domingo have enchanted their audience whether at the Arzobispado de Manila, Cultural Center of the Philippines, five-star hotels or Malacañang Palace. And on Sept. 15, by singing praises to Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, they will show why they have remained as the nation's oldest and most respected boys' choir.

"With their own special place in history, the Tiples could well be among the Dominicans' greatest contributions to Philippine music culture," De Los Santos said.

The Tiples de Sto. Domingo Concert will be held at Philamlife Auditorium, United Nations Avenue, Ermita, Manila, on Sept. 15, 6 p.m. Tickets are at P300. Call 0927-9160660 or 7126271 to 74.

E-mail the author at dxmatilla @yahoo.com.

CAST of "Katipunan, Mga Anak ng Bayan"

"ANG PAGONG at ang Matsing"

The company headed by Tony Espejo is now celebrating its pearl anniversary with a five-play festival on the five Sundays of September

Gantimpala's 30-year odyssey

TONY Espejo

By Amadís Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

IT HAS BEEN A LONG AND sometimes bumpy road for the Gantimpala Theater Foundation, stretching over 30 years. The company headed by Tony Espejo is now celebrating its pearl anniversary with a five-play festival on the five Sundays of September.

The venue is the Concert at the Park Open-Air Auditorium in Rizal Park (Luneta), Ermita, Manila. The plays start 7 p.m., and admission is free.

Then known as Bulwagang Gantimpala, the company was founded in 1977, 10 years after Peta (Philippine Educational Theater Association) and Repertory Philippines, as a resident company of the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Espejo retrieved a clutch of unperformed, CCP Award-winning plays in Filipino which were gathering dust in the files, reworked these into stageable forms, and started to put out one play after another.

In the following years, many talents joined the company and Bulwagang Gantimpala gained an audience, composed mostly of the young. It gave the venerable Peta stiff competition, propelled by a CCP subsidy.

After February 1986, however, with Edsa I, the new dispensation at the CCP felt the need to create a new drama company (eventually Tanghalang Pilipino, which is celebrating its 20th year). And thus began Gantimpala's odyssey.

The company reinvented itself as a foundation, gathered up the pieces, and performed wherever it could: at the Manila Metropolitan Theater before it closed down; St. Cecilia's Hall of St. Scholastica's College; the AFP Theater in Camp Aguinaldo.

Espejo tapped the lucrative student market with four curriculum-oriented classics: "Kanser" (Noli Me Tangere), "El Filibusterismo," "Florante at Laura" and "Ibong Adarna."

Musical paean

For the past four years, the Gantimpala's home has been the Concert at the Park Auditorium, but it also performs in other venues. The Pearl Theater Festival started yesterday with Bonifacio Ilagan's "Katipunan, Mga Anak ng Bayan," directed by Jeffrey Camañag, with music by Jesse Lucas.

"Ramona Reyes ng Forbes Park" by the late Bienvenido Noriega, Jr., will be staged on Sept. 9, directed by Jake de Asis.

On Sept. 16 comes Tony Perez's "Bombita," directed by Soxie Topacio.

The festival will close on Sept. 30 with Leoncio P. Derada's "Taluktok," directed by Espejo.

Part of the September festival is the children's musical "Ang Pagong at ang Matsing" by composer Lucas, excerpts of which were presented to media during a recent press conference at the Rizal Park Auditorium. It is a tale said to have been told to Rizal by his mother Doña Teodora Alonzo.

The musical goes on tour on Sept. 19-21 (Bren Guiao Gym, Pampanga); and on Oct. 12 (Tarlac State University, Tarlac City).

Manila performances are on Oct. 24-26 (Emilio Aguinaldo College Auditorium, near UN Avenue, Manila); and on Dec. 2 (Rizal Park).

Lucas calls his music "*medyo* [somewhat] pop, *kwela*, fun songs, *medyo* campy, *pambata* [for children].

But at the end, the young actors, attired in colorful costumes, cut loose with a musical paean to Nature and its blessings, its promise of a bright tomorrow: "*Salamat, kalikasan... buhayin ang lahat. Kalikasan, may dalang bukas!*"

'Art:' Once more, ...

From page C4

vision show "Lupin," Davao has graced the stage in Tanghalang Pilipino's "Insiang" and "Speaking in Tongues," among other productions. He won an Aliw Award for Best Stage Actor for his work in the latter.

Fraternal banter

De Mesa said he had been wanting to sink his teeth on a straight play as well as work with Guingona again.

"You mean you wanted to work with me," joked Davao.

The fraternal banter was present throughout the interview as both finished each other's sentences and joshed around. Both were also all praises for Pangan in his first foray into straight plays.

The ease in the cast's working relationship also helped them achieve a more dynamic tone when they worked with Albano to thresh out the translation.

Long-time collaborating producer Hendri Go of Little Boy Productions bravely premiered this new version in his hometown of Cebu.

"It was a real test; you know how Cebuanos can be when it comes to Tagalog material," said Go. "But we feel that the material was adapted properly to Filipino sensibilities and humor."

It also helped that Guingona is intimately familiar with the play.

Despite the thorough preparation, the cast still experienced jitters.

"I'm used to more intimate performance spaces where there would only be 400 seats. Our theater in Cebu had 1,100 seats, and there were only the three of us [actors]! We were nervous, we didn't know if people would come and watch," said Davao.

But the audience were appreciative, and two more performances were added due to public demand.

The successful Cebu run has emboldened the cast and crew to stage a special one-night-only Manila performance at the Music Museum on Sept. 22, 8 p.m.

Tickets start from P300 and are available at National Book Store Ticketworld. Call 8919999 or visit www.ticketworld.com.ph.

E-mail the author at waltzang@yahoo.com

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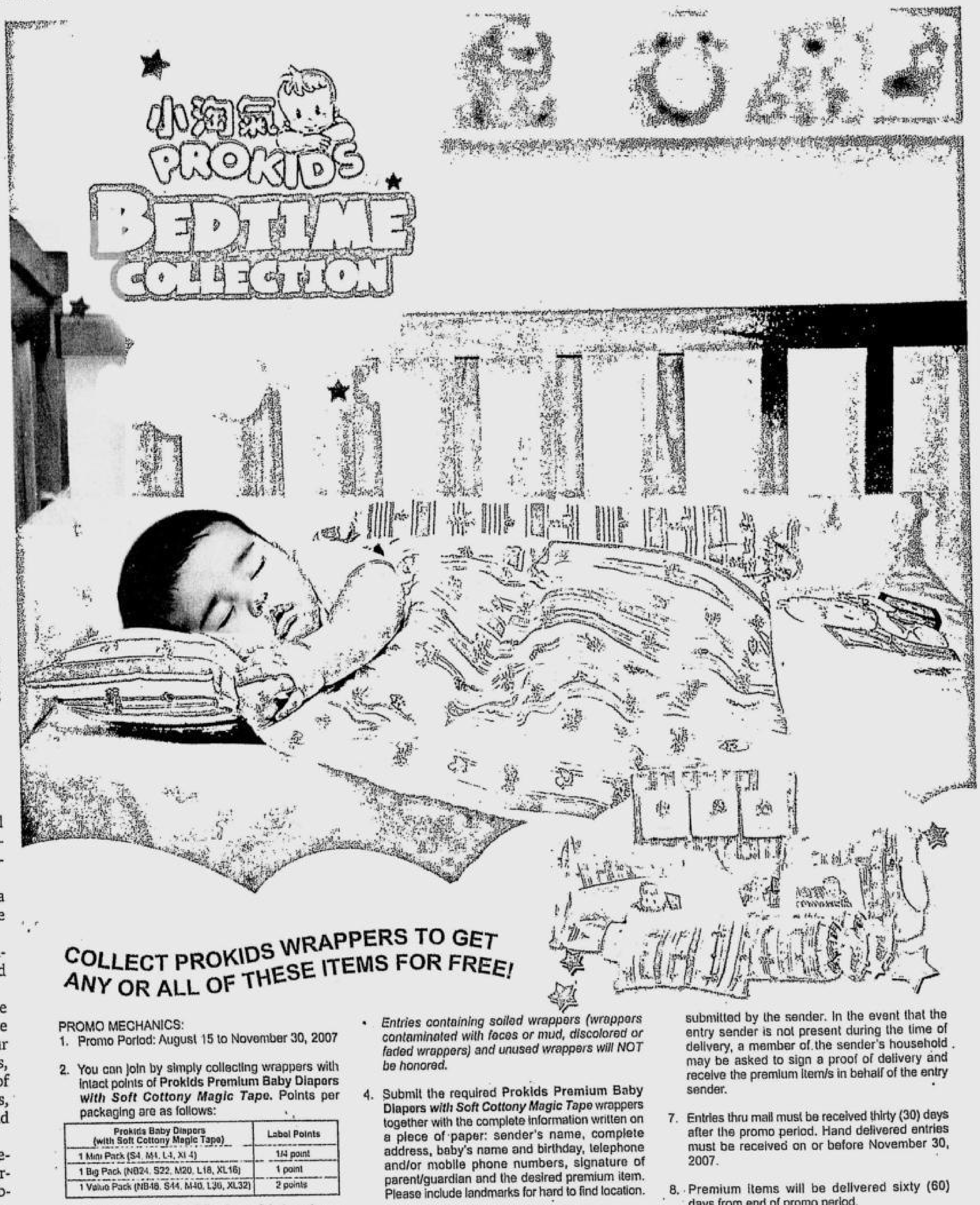

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'Art': Once more, in Filipino

By Walter Ang
Contributor

> The successful Cebu run has emboldened the cast and crew to stage a special one-night-only Manila performance at the Music Museum on Sept. 22

THREE MEN TALKING ABOUT a painting. It's easy to brush off the premise of this straight play, seeing as how it can easily be boring. Or weird. Or both.

Thankfully, Yasmina Reza's "Art" is none of the above. It offers an engaging and hilarious opportunity to eavesdrop on three best buds as they traverse the fine line that defines their friendship.

Originally written in French and produced by Sean Connery in London, "Art" has won numerous awards, including the 1998 Tony Award for Best Play and the 1997 Olivier Award for Best Comedy, and has been translated into 20 languages including English, Mandarin, Japanese, German and Spanish.

MICHAEL de Mesa, Ricky Davao and Jett Pangan in a heated debate in "Art"

The Philippine premiere of "Art" in 1998 featured Bart Guingona (who also directed), Audie Gemora, and Jaime del Mundo in the English translation. The show became one of several trademark productions of Actors' Actors Inc., Guingona's theater company.

After Lito Albano saw one of these restagings, he approached Guingona and brought up the idea of translating the material into Filipino to make it accessible to a wider audience.

"I do poetry and copywriting, so I gave it a shot and translated the first 10 pages for Bart's approval," said Albano. "I think he liked it because I got a text message instructing me to finish the entire play."

While the translation work continued, actors were rounded up to fill the roles.

Michael de Mesa, who has become popular with the English theater crowd with his involvement in musicals, was chosen to play Serge (played by Audie Gemora in the English version)—the character whose purchase of a painting, which happens to be completely white, sets off heated reactions from the other two characters.

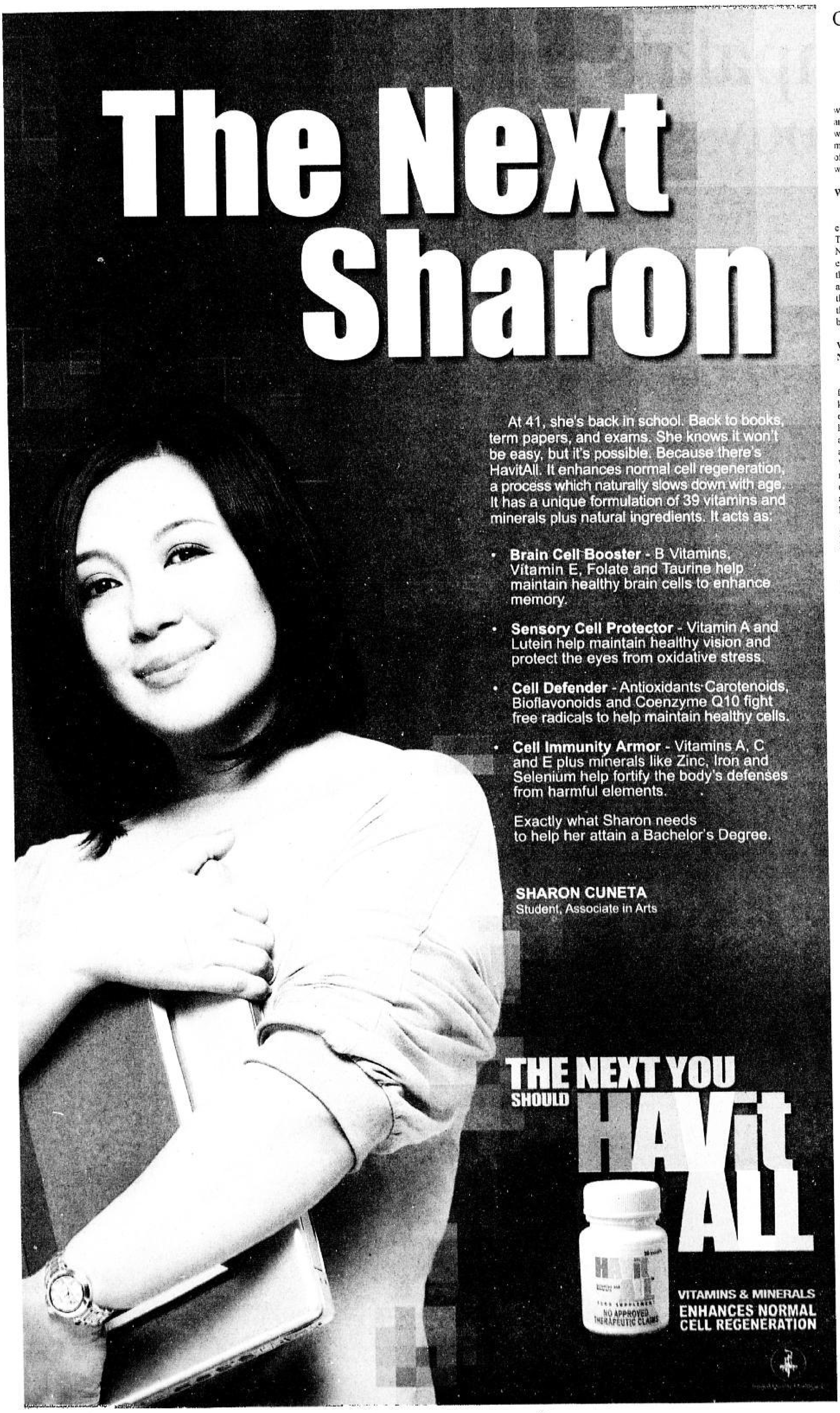
Jett Pangan, front man of The Dawn and star of such musicals as "Once on This Island," "Beauty and the Beast" and "Tick, Tick Boom!," was recruited to make his nonmusical straight play debut as Mar.

"He is the quintessential leader-of-the-pack, head-of-the-gang alpha male," explained Guingona, who played Marc in the English version. "He's the one who disagrees with Serge's foray into the art world."

Caught in between these two explosive personalities is Jun (Yvan in the original, played by Jaime del Mundo), the milquetoast sidekick whose shoes would be filled by Ricky Davao.

Familiar to younger audiences as one of the villains in the tele-

ART/ C3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CELL REGENERATION: ITS LINK TO THE BODY'S OPTIMAL FUNCTION

Aging is inevitable! And as we gain years in our lives, we realize that our body just isn't the way it used to be and our near-invincible days are slipping. That's because with age, our body loses its grip on this wonderful natural mechanism called CELL REGENERATION - a process of healing and repair that may just hold the key to sustained well-being and longevity.

WHAT IS CELL REGENERATION?

Cell regeneration is a daily process by which cells continuously REPLACE AND RESTORE THEMSELVES TO MAINTAIN THE BODY'S NORMAL FUNCTION. The human body is a well-engineered machine designed to heal and repair itself through cells that are able to continuously multiply, thrive and adapt by a process called cell turnover. Examples of these continuously proliferating cells are those found in the skin, the lining of the intestines, bone marrow and blood.

WHY IS NORMAL CELL REGENERATION NEEDED?

Normal cell regeneration is necessary for the body to function optimally. It is a natural process responsible for keeping our mind sharp, bones and muscles strong, our eyesight keen, our digestion running smoothly, our skin healthy and generally maintaining our youthful, healthy and vibrant looks. Cells demonstrate their wonderful ability to adapt when injuries are sustained by the body. While continuously proliferating cells never cease to replicate themselves, others that have a slower rate of division like those found in the kidney and liver react and multiply faster when an injury occurs to hasten the healing process.

HOW DOES AGE AFFECT CELL REGENERATION?

With age, and other factors like nutritional gaps and cumulative exposure to harmful environmental elements, cell regeneration gets disrupted. The cells become less efficient in repairing and duplicating themselves. This cellular change eventually manifests in the skin becoming wrinkled and less elastic, the eyes declining in function and even the digestive tract becoming less able to absorb nutrients. These are just some of the reasons why preserving the regenerative powers of our body cells takes on paramount importance.

WHAT DISRUPTS NORMAL CELL REGENERATION?

While cell regeneration occurs daily, it is keenly dependent on proper nutrition and rest. Hence, too much stress, inadequate sleep, a deficient diet, exposure to other environmental factors tend to interrupt the normal cell regeneration process. Aging also adds to the problem. As we mature, we somehow fail to optimally assimilate all the nutrients our body needs from the food that we eat, creating a significant nutritional gap and slowing down the process of cell renewal.

WHAT SHOULD I DO TO ENHANCE NORMAL CELL REGENERATION?

The good news about normal cell regeneration is that we can influence factors that cause its steady decline. Start developing healthy lifestyle habits now like engaging in regular physical activity and getting enough sleep. Avoid smoking and excessive drinking. Steer clear of stress or find a way to handle it well. It is also important to take a daily supplement. A nationwide survey conducted by the DOST Food and Nutrition Research Institute in 2003 showed that many essential nutrients are not adequately met by the Filipino diet. And while eating well-balanced meals may be a step in the right direction, sometimes we fail to assimilate all the vitamins and minerals we need from the food that we eat as we grow older. Supplements therefore offer us a practical approach to assure proper nutrition for optimum cell regeneration.

WHAT'S A GOOD SUPPLEMENT TO ENHANCE CELL REGENERATION?

A good nutritional supplement for cell regeneration is one that packs a good balance of all the essential building blocks for renewal. Antioxidant Vitamin C fights free radicals that damage cells and stimulates collagen synthesis. Other antioxidants that help protect cells are Vitamins A and E and Lycopene. Zinc helps in blood clotting and wound healing, and boosts our immune system, while Folic Acid plays a key role in cell division and growth. Vitamin D, on the other hand, helps regulate the growth of cells. Vitamin A and Lutein promote healthy eye cells. The B Vitamins provide energy for all these processes to occur. Other nutrients that support cell regeneration are Taurine, Tyrosine and Choline for enhancement of brain performance. HAVitALL has all 39 vitamins and minerals plus natural ingredients to help enhance the normal cell regeneration process.

Now we all know we're hardly immune to injury nor stress, but CELL REGENERATION is our body's insurance policy against the potential damages created by our own lifestyle choices and the world we live in. Remember that although aging is inevitable, it can either be accelerated or slowed down by adopting a healthy lifestyle and ensuring a proper nutrition complemented by the right supplement.

LIFESTYLE

WHAT'S INSIDE
Angels and abstracts /D3

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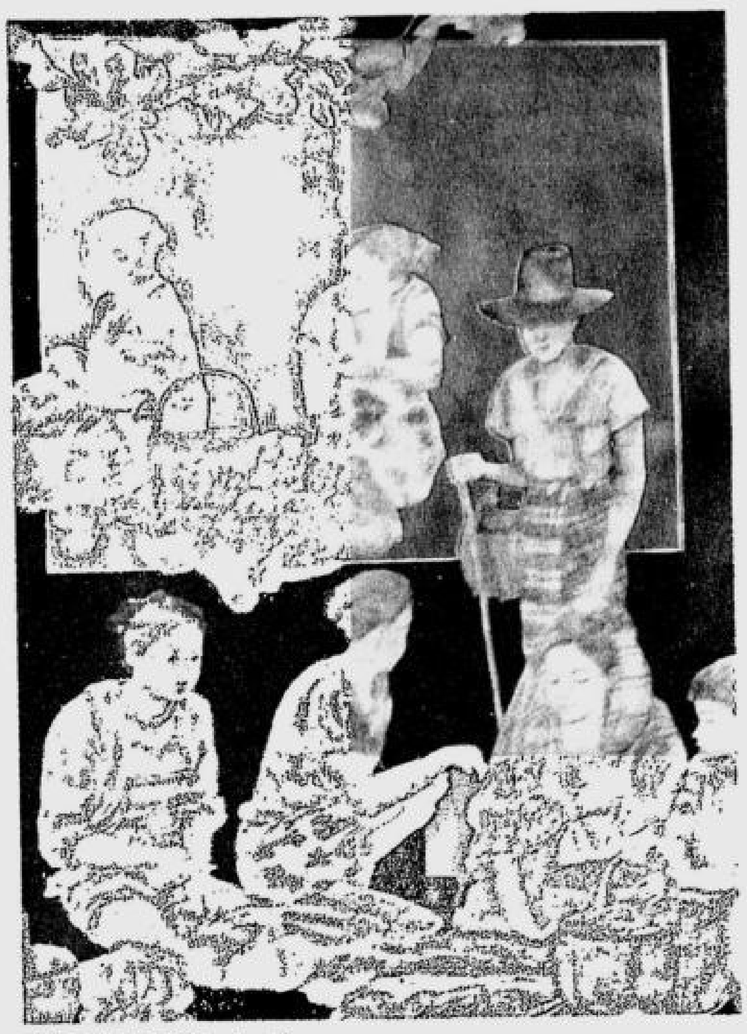
An artist's evolution

By Edsel Moscoso
Contributor


"VEGETABLE Vendors"

THE ARTIST

> Training in Christian art and archeology in Rome deepened my understanding of the Christian religion, and this prodded me to use my art in coming out with native forms to address our kind of religiosity as a people

PEOPLE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN MY obsession. It is and always will be pivotal to my form of art.

This seeming interest has simmered through childhood into adulthood, acquiring form and added meanings with every passing year.

The whole gestation process of this interest in humanity is an ever-evolving process, acquiring various degrees of validity and significance as one traipses through years of creativity.

Genuine concern is never dictated by a form of commercialization. But by a simple honest concern of allowing our sense of humanity to grow and be nurtured by day-to-day discipline in defining one's forms.

In my involvement with creating human form, I have always strived to create figures using the purest of lines, never repenting them to create a linearity of purpose.

It is easy enough to construct figures using shadows and light where one could rectify mistakes by erasure and the successive building of forms.

Such is not my chosen style of rendition. As in art, succinctness of approach, as far as technique is concerned, is in itself the essence of validity, just as a surgeon's validity is toward not creating an unnecessary cut to confuse the issue of a valid operation.

It will take a lifetime for me to fulfill this sense of artistic purpose. Even day-to-day experiences have added their validity toward the formation of my kind of art.

Was it blind instinct that has led me into doing this? Maybe, maybe not. But what I can be sure of is that the act of creation has always prompted me as an artist to do everything in the spirit of play and never as work.

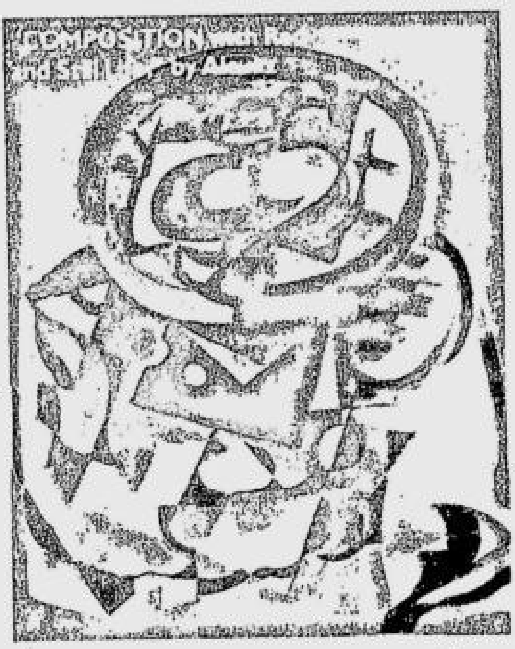
An artist is like a child, always playing and his creativity manages to capture hitherto unknown forms that are now captured as visual forms, thanks to his God-given sense of form.

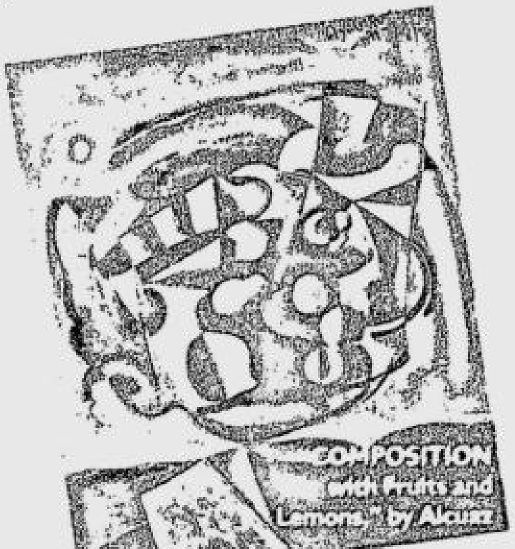
This highly celebratory mood is by any way translatable into a quick course in art execution. The whole process is realizable in one's lifetime where one can constantly explore possibilities of forms as dictated by one's ever-growing sensitivity toward the issues confronting his artistic spirit.

What true success would constitute for the

AN ARTIST'S/ D2

Sotheby's to auction 26 Pinoy works


COMPOSITION with [illegible] and Still Life by Alcuaz


COMPOSITION with Fruits and Lemons, by Alcuaz

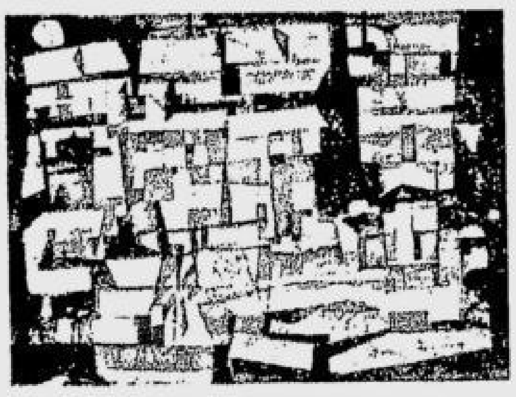
TWENTY-SIX ARTWORKS from 13 artists mark the Philippine participation in the Sotheby's auction of modern and contemporary Southeast Asian paintings Sept. 16 in the Main Ballroom of the Regent of Singapore at 1 Cuscaden Rd.

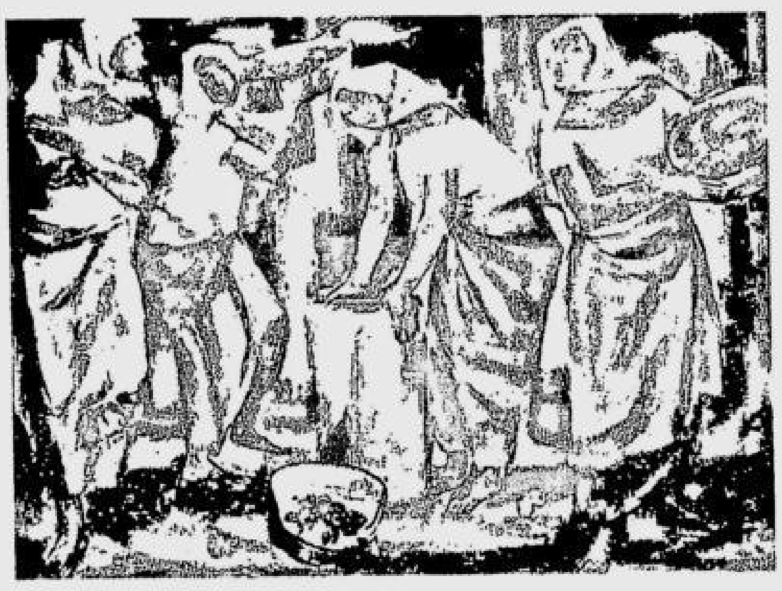
This is a much-awaited auction with Sotheby's offering 176 lots from the top artists and masters of Southeast Asia. With Sotheby's imposing a higher cutoff level on the minimum bids per artwork, the auction has narrowed down the playing field to mostly works from masters, if not highly in demand, and outstanding contemporary artists.

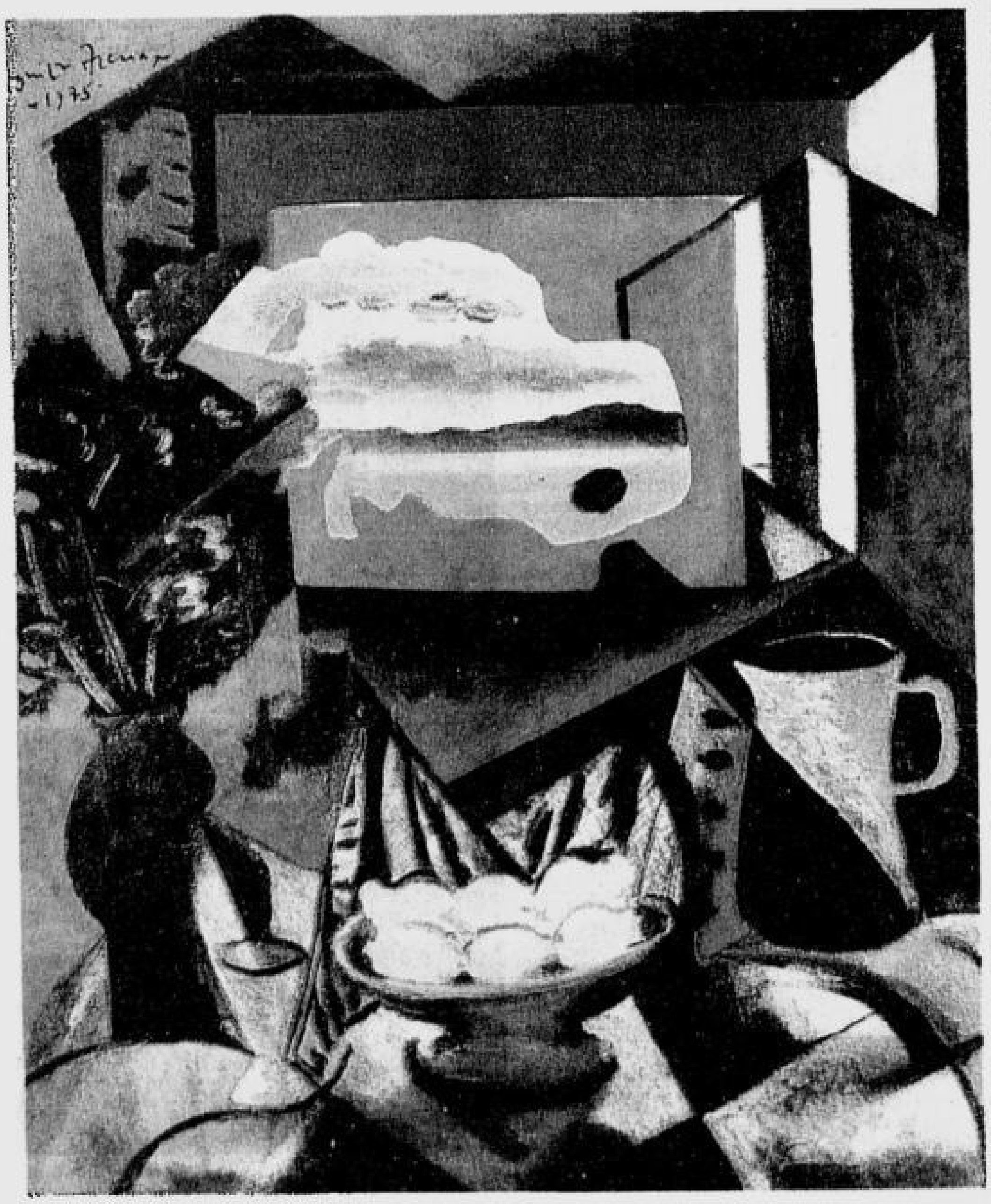
Sotheby's usually had several categories, namely Indo-European Paintings, Singaporean, Malaysian, Filipino and Thai Paintings, Vietnamese Paintings, New Contemporary Paintings, and Modern Indonesian Paintings.

For this auction, Sotheby's has chosen to do away with the categories and instead divided the auction into two: Session One for

SOTHEBY'S/ D2




"COMMUNITY," by Vicente Manansala (left); "Fruit Harvest," by Anita Magsaysay-Ho


"STILL Life with Lemons," by Federico Aguilar Alcuaz

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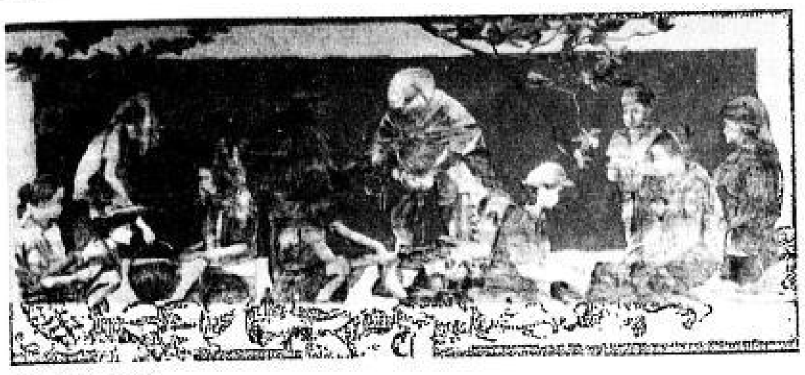
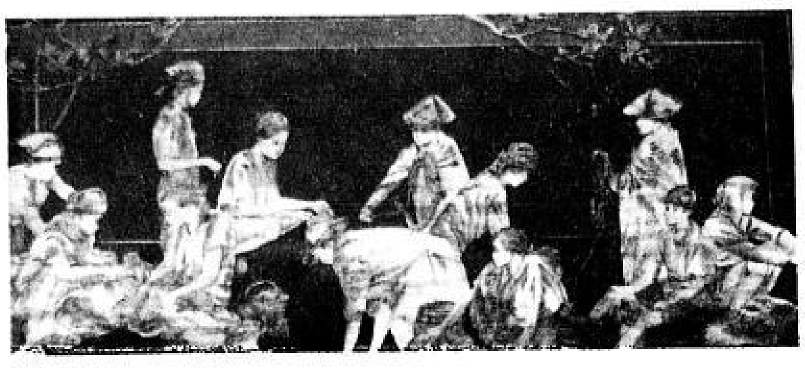
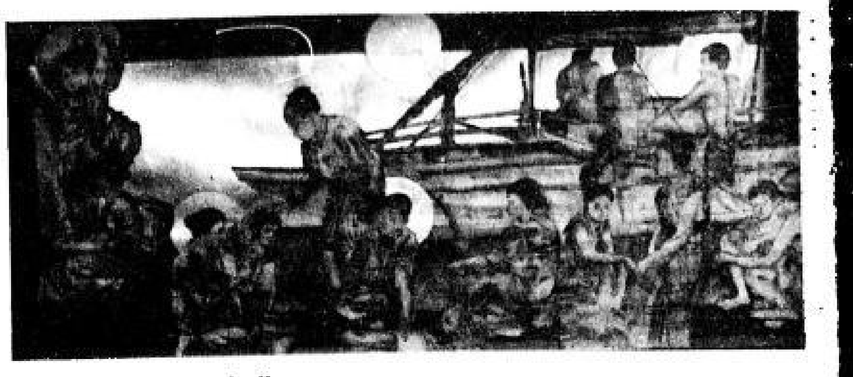

"TRADING"


"MARKET Scene"


"FISHER of Humanity"

An artist's evolution

From page D1

real artist is having entertained the least compromise while getting the most results.

As in defining lines to arrive at a purity of human form, so the intent of the creative spirit is in justifying its sense of validity. Perchance the justification or logic of creativity lies in its unbridled spontaneity. A sense of purpose supplemented by iron discipline, a rigorous approach evoking all forms of valid participation.

It is this obsession that has spurred me to simplify my art to its maximum purity of execution, a result of years of valid rendition in drawing the purest of human figures, using only the most minimum of lines to delineate the figures and their accessories, my different canvases unreeling in the process the vast panorama of the Filipino people ever at work or at play, intent in fulfilling their many different activities.

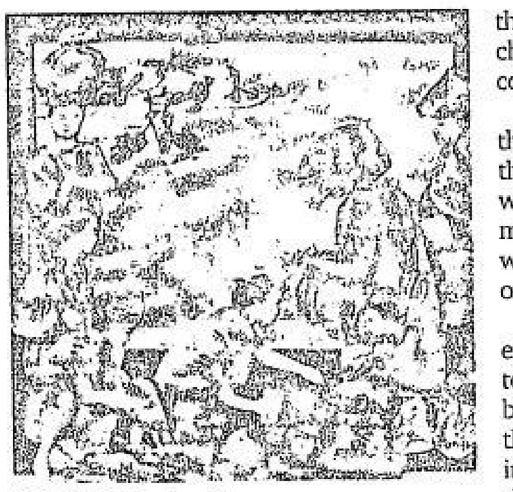
Viewing the works one could see or feel the seed of identification, growing with the now more familiar figure of our rural folk pared down to their very essence, the figures seemingly unmindful of the numerous complications of urban life.

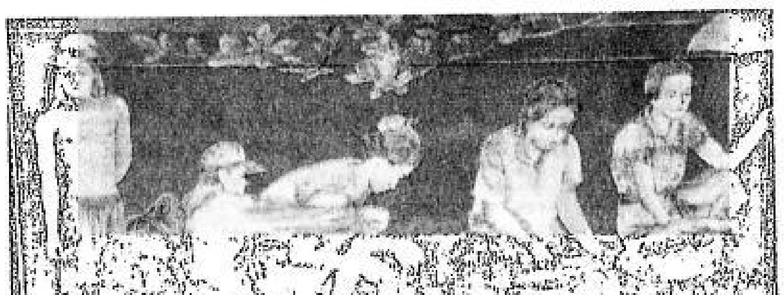
Rural is my turf as I grew up in that environment, nurtured as a child into adulthood by parents who, in the simplicity of their approach toward the business of living, were in reality very philosophical in their pragmatism.

My siblings and I grew up in the farm following the natural cycle of things. Learning to live life in its unhurried pace, never succumbing to unnecessary pressures.

It is this basic approach or a technique, I suspect, that guided us into adulthood, respecting the ethereality or transience of things as taught by the lessons of farming the land, where one can sow, nurture what you have planted, and harvest and share the fruits of the land.

It is this love of nature and people that through time has fused them into the one and singular obsession of my life as an artist. My father reared me on the classics. I became familiar with Greek mythology: I had to read the classics at a very tender age.


"WOMEN Traders"


"KALAKALAN"

Gibbon, Tolstoy, Gogol and Rilke were common everyday fare for my questioning spirit always hungry for added stimulation. It was, to my present-day recollection, no ordinary education, and I can thank all of my parents for that.

Heady experience

But this education did not end with those idyllic prognostications of a curious child's mind. More revelations were still to come.

As the age of reason set in, I enrolled at the State University in Diliman. This time the challenge took on a different form. It was a time of growing awareness, of ferment in the academe, when no institutions were considered sacred. Everything was open for questioning.

For a young mind it was a heady experience. There at UP we were made to think, to intellectualize, to seek the added validity by incessantly questioning the merits of things. As students we were beginning to institutionalize our irrelevance to everything that we found suspect.

In college we had as mentors Anastacio Caedo, Napoleon Abueva and José Joya, now both National Artists.

Ed Castrillo was also a teacher, but it was Rod Perez and Virginia Flor Agbayani who trained us academically. They were especially exacting. Their insistence bore fruit as we took the brunt of their insistent discipline.

Being a consistent scholar in those days was no mean feat. I was able to graduate on time. From then on, a certain seriousness of purpose delineated my vocation as an artist. After five years of just painting and selling, a certain tedium set in my soul. I was no longer happy at what Manila could offer.

A promise of drastic change came in the form of a scholarship from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which enabled me to study at Accademia di Belle Arti in Rome.

On the third year of my sojourn, I decided to study the restoration of frescoes at the International Center for the Study and Preservation of Cultural Properties, also in Rome.

On my fourth year, my friend Consigliere Tezzi from the Italian ministry adviced me, considering that I came from the only Catholic Asian country to study Christian Archeology.

Greater understanding

This decision proved quite a revelation. It opened a greater understanding of our kind of religion, for the study encompassed various fields of discipline, from the early teachings of the Church fathers, to iconography, epigraphy and the development of ecclesiastical architecture.

It was a whirlwind tour of familiarization, which served its purpose of deepening my understanding of the Christian religion.

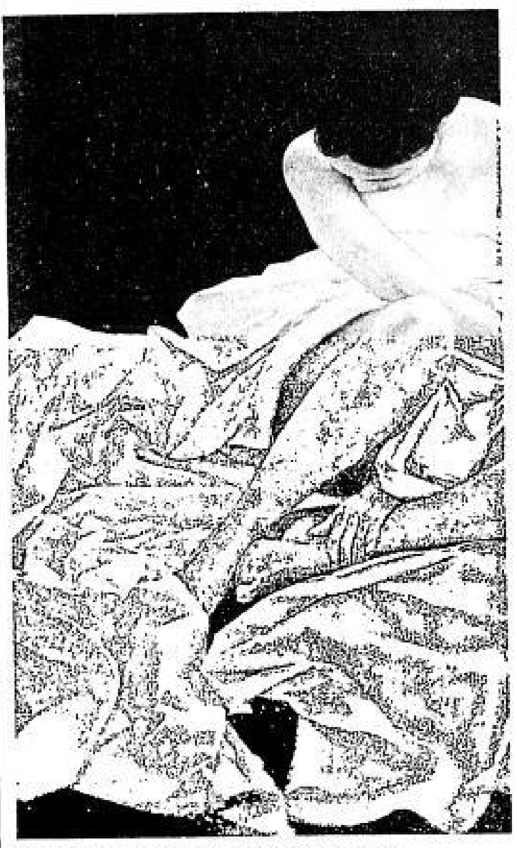
The understanding prodded me to use my art in coming out with native forms to address our kind of religiosity as a people. To use the local provincial folk to represent the divinities was to reach out, to Filipinize our religious sensibility.

From this preoccupation was born a series of paintings glorifying the Philippine rural folk as simple country people with saintly orbs imparting a certain divinity to them.

The creative process took over where others had left off. With creeping maturity brought by years of training the "manscapes," as Nick Joaquin would put it, the style is still in the process of evolving into the assumption of greater simplicity in terms of lines, content and figures, forever seeking its validity in the growing awareness of our people as to the question of their being Filipinos, and finding their essence in the fond manscapes of one of their own.

Sotheby's to auction 26 Pinoy works

From page D1


"WHITE Linen," by Eufemio Rasco

the morning auction and Session Two for the afternoon auction.

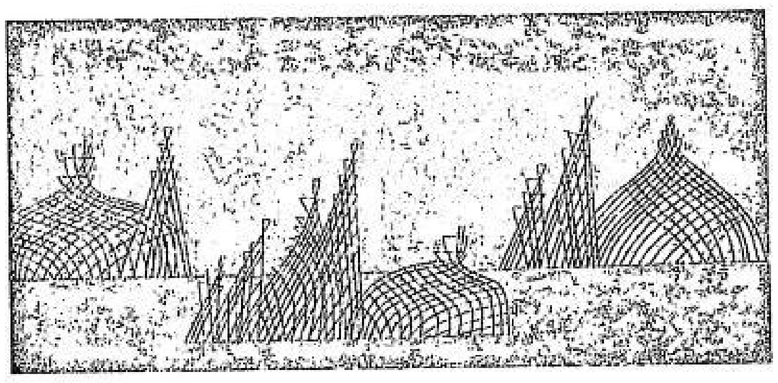
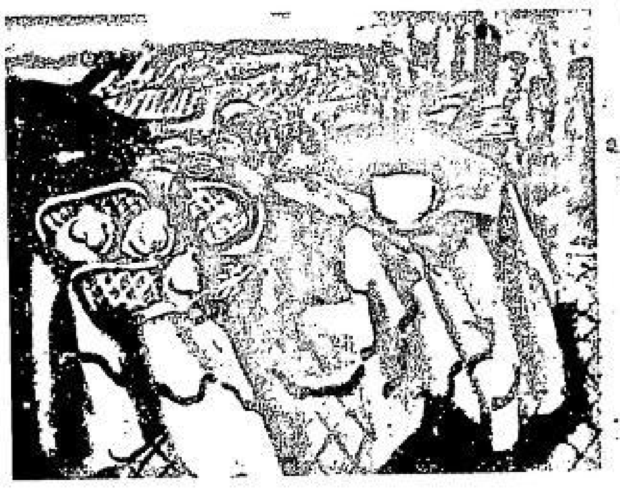
The present Philippine participation is the biggest in the past three years. There are two Anita Magsaysay-Hos: a 21½ x 29¼" 1953 oil on canvas, "Fruit Harvest," and an 18¼ x 21¼" oil on canvas, "Egg Sellers."

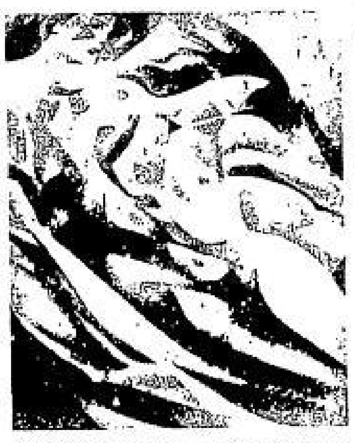
There are also three Amorsolos, a Manansala, three works from Arturo Luz, a Cesar Legaspi and a Pacita Abad. Amorsolo, Manansala, Luz and Legaspi are Philippine National Artists while Abad and Federico Aguilar Alcuaz are Presidential Medal of Merit awardees.

For the auction, Alcuaz has been given the distinction of having an entire section of six rare artworks as tribute to his stellar accomplishments as an artist and in celebration of his 75th birth anniversary.

These are the 29½ x 24" "Still Life with Lemons," 28¾ x 23½" "Composition with Fruits and Lemons," the 36 x 28¾" "Bodegon Enmarcado," the 29½ x 23½" "Composition with Red and Still Life," the 28¾ x 23½" "Landscape," and the 28¾ x 36" "Still Life with Landscape."

Alcuaz has exhibited in Spain, Portugal, Germany, and France and has won several art and cultural awards in Spain and France. He is known for his abstract works, his fascination with Cubism and Surrealism, and with the neofigurative movement in the Spanish-speaking world.



"TEMPLES," by Arturo Luz; (at right) "Still Life with Landscape," by Alcuaz


"MORNING Dance," by Cesar Legaspi

Aside from the 40 x 60" work "Borobodur," there are two rare Luzes: a 25½ x 48" work in acrylic on canvas laid on board, "Temples," and a 24 x 48" work, "Boxes and Shells."

It will be recalled that a 1957 work by Luz, "Estudiantinas," in the December auction at Christie's last year, sold at a record price of P4.2 million.

Also included in the auction are two works by Ronald Ventura, two by Marcel Antonio, one by Nona Garcia, two by Winner Jumalon, one by EL Cordova and one by Eufemio Rasco IV.

Works by Rasco and Jumalon got high bids in last April's Sotheby's auction.

Interested parties who may want to participate in the auction can visit www.sothebys.com and go to the category auction calendar looking for the April 29 auction of Modern and Contemporary Southeast Asian Paintings. Bidding can also be done by submitting an absentee bid form by telephone. Call 65-67328239.

Inexhaustible minimalism

By Constantino C. Tejero

THE PAINTINGS OF ARTURO Luz are a visual paradox.

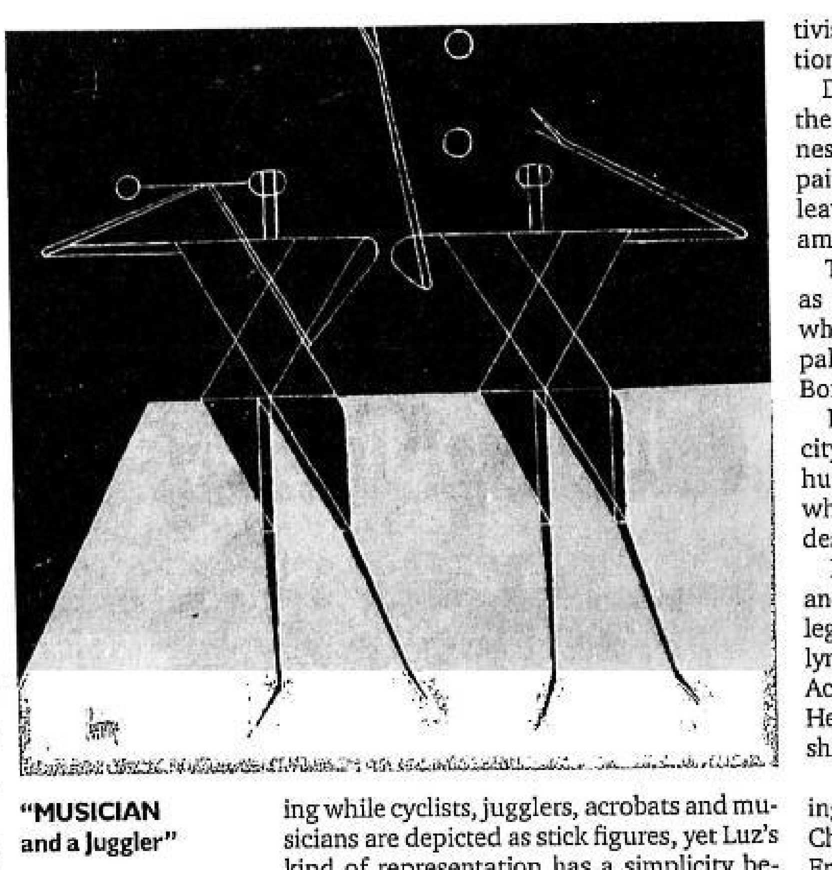
They're the typical Rejective Art limited in line and color yet they possess such visual richness the eye can barely exhaust. They appear easy to produce, and can be easily reproduced by any faker, yet each has that layered complexity and perfect balance that only an authentic artist can apprehend and create.

A fitting tribute to the 81-year-old National Artist has been mounted in "Large Paintings, Performers and Ancient Cities," 35 pieces in acrylic on canvas, until Sept. 9 in Galerie Joaquin Main, 371 P. Guevarra St. cor. Montessori Lane, Addition Hills, San Juan.

These are old paintings, seven large and 28 smaller ones, from his series "Borobudor," "Cities of the Past" and "Performers." Viewers may feel they have seen them before somewhere, as they've been popular and cropping up from gallery to gallery, thus highly recognizable.

The paintings characteristically look similar, with the canvas invariably segmented into flat planes of black, burgundy and ochre with thin slashes and grids of white, gray and blue. They're figurative but the rigid linearity of the composition gives the impression of geometric abstraction.

Architectural forms are done in line drawing while cyclists, jugglers, acrobats and musicians are depicted as stick figures, yet Luz's kind of representation has a simplicity beyond naïf. His is an intellectualized rendering of line, balance and chromatics.


"MUSICIAN and a Juggler"

It is art that's related to the two styles of Russian abstraction: Suprematism with its "severely simple geometric forms and an extremely limited palette"; and Constructivism with its "severely formal organization of mass, volume and space."

Despite the rigidity of the composition, the muted color tonality and the preciseness of the lines, however, these magisterial paintings do not appear cold and never leave one cold. In fact, they're warm as they amuse, delight and surprise the viewer.

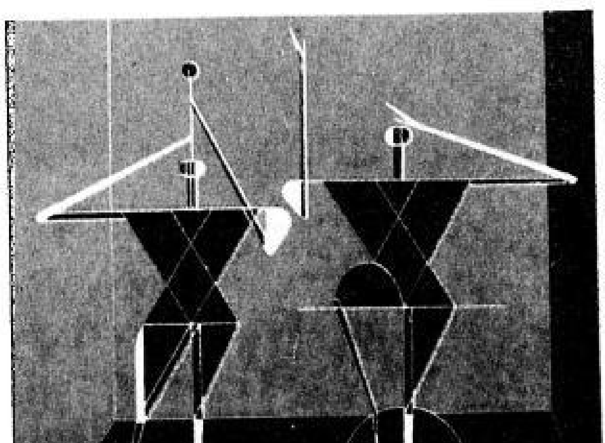
The artist says these are imaginary cities as they're actually composite images of what he had seen of the ancient cities, forts, palaces and temples he visited, such as Borobudor, Angkor Wat, Sukhothai.

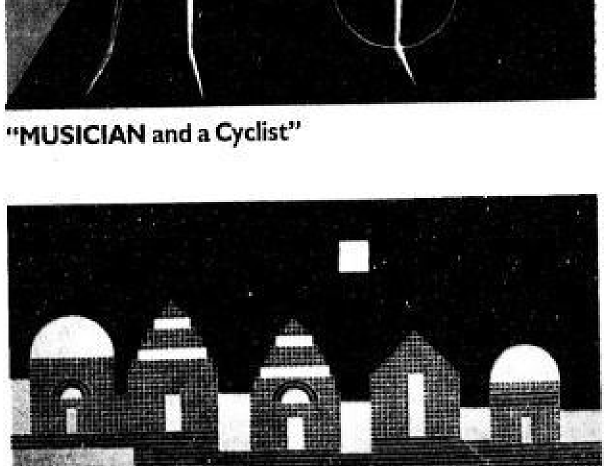
But that doesn't really matter. These cityscapes could have been origami and the human figures nothing but topiaries, but what holds the viewer is the perfection of design in each piece.

Luz studied at the UST School of Fine Arts, and took further studies at the California College of Arts and Craft in Oakland; the Brooklyn Museum Art School in New York; and the Academie de la Grande Chaumiere in Paris. He further honed his craft through scholarship grants in Spain and Italy.

He was named National Artist for Painting in 1997. He received the Order de Chevalier des Arts et Lettres from the French government.

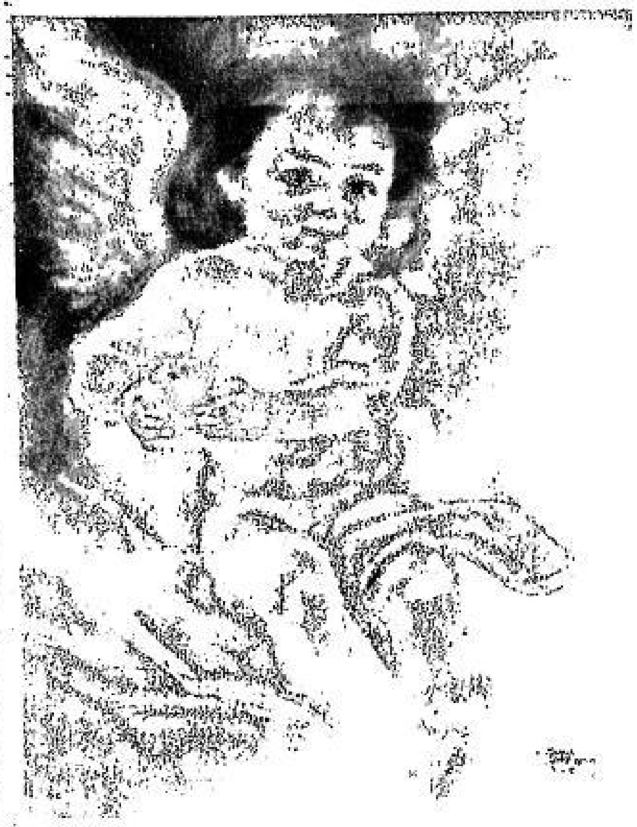
Luz is of that generation and breed that looks at a piece and identifies whether it is art or not and no in-between. His paintings, repetitive in figuration, obsessive in structural rigor and hypnotic in effect, are clear manifestations of this mandarin taste.

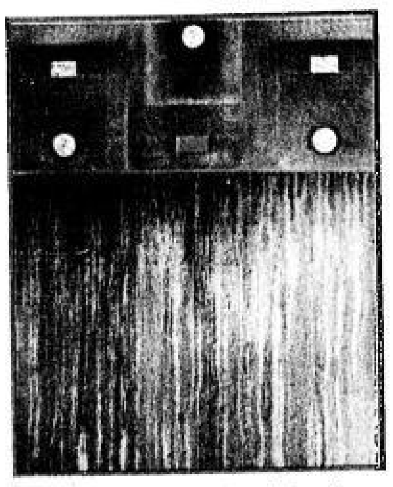

"MUSICIAN and a Cyclist"


"BOROBUDOR"

Where angels fear to tread

By Gary C. Devilles
Contributor


"SPHERE of Light," by Gabuco


"NIGHT Mode" by Fred Ramirez

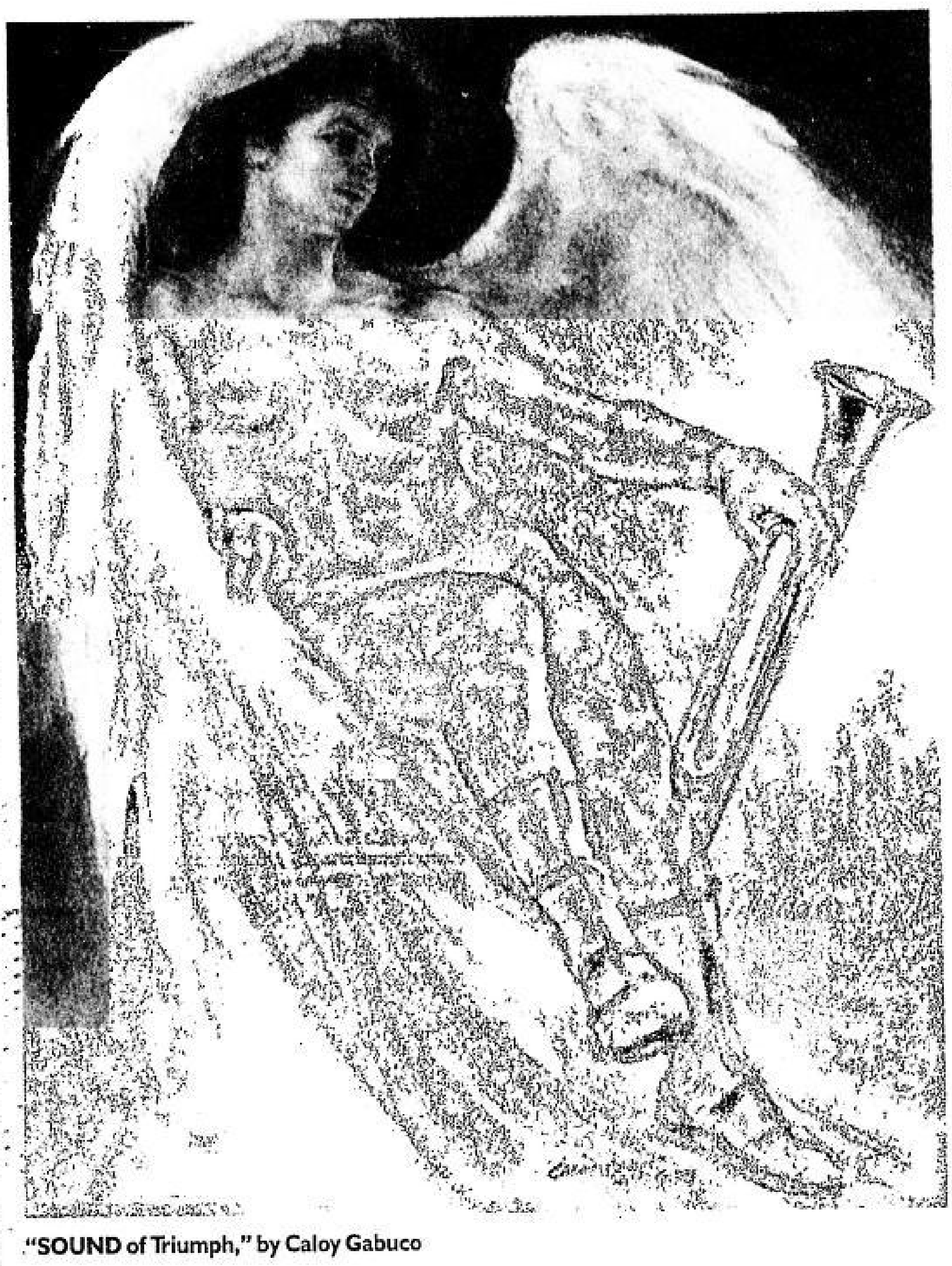
WHEN WE LOOK AT A painting, the painting has a way of looking back at us and saying something about who we are. Hence, for every painting there is the uneasiness of being exposed or having to deal with the truth.

Three veteran modernists, Caloy Gabuco, Fred Ramirez and Omi Reyes, dare to cause our discomfort in their group exhibit, "Trigonos," on Sept. 3 in 1/of Gallery (tel. 9013152), Shops at Serendra, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig.

Gabuco depicts angels and cherubs at play, and it is not surprising that such fascination with angels is something he probably shares with a lot of modernist thinkers who see themselves as part heavenly and part corporal, always torn between the incorruptibility of Paradise and the dread of Hell, and ever envious of humans, though condescending of their frailty.

Modernists by definition are stubborn and it's the kind of stubbornness that modernist painting also begets, always objecting to our interpretation, extracting more from us, including our memories and dreams. Gabuco definitely achieves this effect where the depiction of the eyes of the angels that seemingly become a threshold, half-opened and half-closed, as if we were compelled to see what is no longer there.

It is this ambiguity that Gabuco shares with Reyes and Ramirez as the geometric shapes in the latter artists' works dissolve the very fabric of space-and-time continuum, making everything fleeting, and nothing remains except for a few colors and lines which could have been one's memory of the undulating sea waves rushing to the shore or a dream of the starless night that breezes an upcoming storm.


"SOUND of Triumph," by Caloy Gabuco

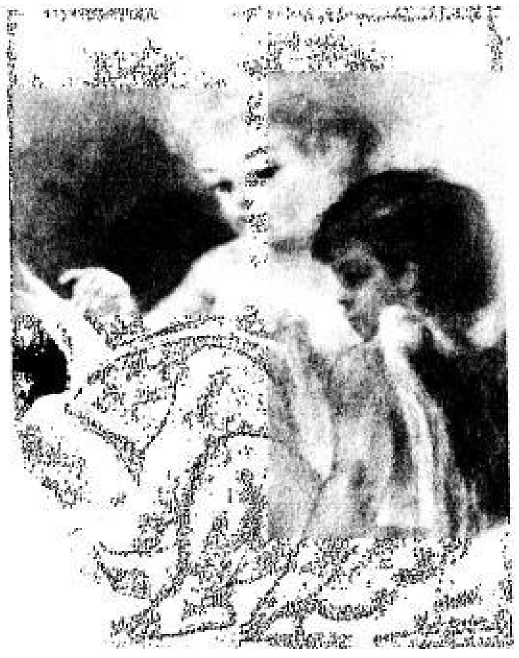
Visual memory

In Reyes' and Ramirez's works, circles and squares trigger a visual memory while the vagueness and overlapping of colors accommodate a new memory when it comes. It is as if other appropriate senses were evoked, such as the warmth of red dissolving to yellow and ochre tones in Reyes' works while the purple haze ripples to darkness in Ramirez's.

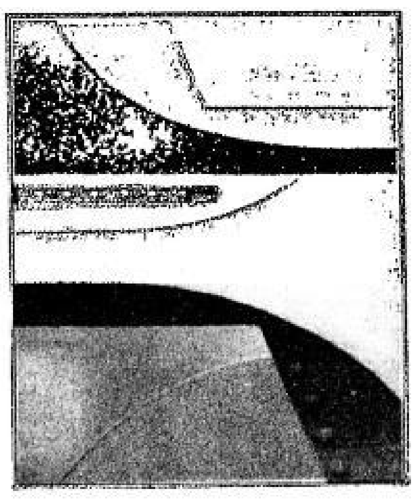
Modernists tend to achieve a unity of senses in which sight can be smelled or a sound felt. Hence, the overall effect is one of exhilaration, and in the abstract paintings of Reyes and Ramirez the experience can be hallucinatory.

Perhaps it is also with this kind of attitude that one should approach a modernist painting of Reyes, Ramirez and Gabuco—to see oneself amid the interplay of senses, when what is inside is also outside, the personal becomes political, and silence a defiant cry.

The crux of contradiction for the modernist painter is that in the end the viewer gets to be viewed and the innocent reader becomes a text in itself.


"HEAVENLY Melody," by Gabuco

> In the angels of Gabuco and the geometric abstracts of Reyes and Ramirez, one sees oneself amid the interplay of senses, and what is inside is also outside, the personal becoming political, and silence a defiant cry

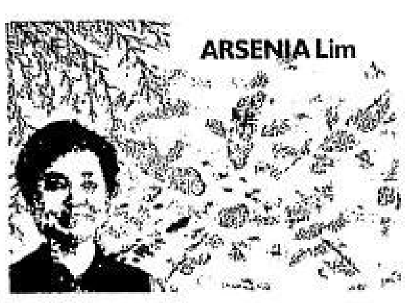

"IDYLLIC"
by Omi Reyes

VISUAL ARTS

Rupert Jacinto photo show

Rupert Jacinto's "Images: Tokyo" & "Nieuw Art" featuring photography, computer graphics, painting and mixed-media opens today in St. Francis Towers Showroom, Shangri-La Place, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong. The exhibit runs until Sept. 9. Artworks will also be available for sale.

"THE PORTAL to Your Dreams," by Rupert Jacinto


ARSENIA Lim

Lim at Yuchengco Museum

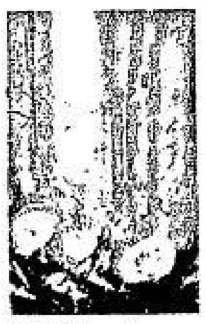
Arsenia Lim presents her eight solo exhibit, "Praise to Nature," featuring landscapes, flowers and birds until Oct. 20 in Yuchengco Museum, RCBC Plaza corner Ayala and Gil Puyat Avenues, Makati. In this exhibit, she combines the Chinese traditional water-and-ink spirit, Western sketching techniques, with realistic and free-hand brushwork. Call 8891234.

Jocson at Art Space

"Flight Simulation," an exhibit of paintings and installations by Jethro Jocson opens on Sept. 8 in Ar.I.A.s (Artist-run Independent Art Space), 210 LRI Business Plaza, Nicanor Garcia St., Makati. Jocson is known for his performance art, using paper plane, umbrella, balloons and other paraphernalia. Call 8959837.

Quartana at Duemila

Nino Quartana presents "I Giorni E La Notte (The Days and Night)," until Sept. 30 in Galleria Duemila, 210 Loring St., 1300 Pasay. Quartana is a painter, stage designer and ceramist. His artworks have been showcased in Italy and other parts of the world since 1979. Call 8319990 or 8339815.


"DAYS and Night," by Nino Quartana

Tayag at Alliançe Francaise

"Palate/Palette: A Watercolor Travelogue" by Claude Tayag opens on Sept. 6 in Alliançe Total Gallery, 209 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air 2, Makati. The exhibit runs until Sept. 28. Call 8957585 or 8957441.

Group exhibit at Whitebox

Whitebox Gallery in Cubao Shoe Expo, Araneta Center features Rene Cuvos, Crisanto de Leon, Bunch Garcia, Caloy Gernale and Arthur Sanches in "Enchanted Kingdom," until Sept. 11.

Diaz at Duemila

Galleria Duemila at 210 Loring St. 1300 Pasay, presents "Ribs," by Ramon Diaz, until Sept. 30. Diaz took graduate and postgraduate courses in graphic printing in Germany, England, Belgium and Holland. His works were commissioned by the Subic Bay Yacht Club and Hotel, Manila Yacht Club, Presidential Residence, PLDT as well as renowned interior designer Carleton Varney who has commercially reproduced his Nishikigoi into designer clothing. His works were recently exhibited in Steuben Glass, Manhattan, New York. Call 8319990 or 8339815.

Herzon at Galerie Y

Herzon De la Rosa presents his 40th solo exhibit, "Theory of Multiplicity." The works generally depict agricultural harvest through a combination of realist, impressionist and modern styles. The show runs Sept. 8-18 in Galerie Y at 4/F, SM Megamall Bldg. A, Mandaluyong. Call 6342704.

Cosio at Ricco-Renzo

Ricco-Renzo Galleries and Caffe at G/F, LRI Business Plaza, 210 N. Garcia St., Bel-Air II, Makati, presents an exhibit by Allan Cosio dubbed "Cosio Nudes," until Sept. 15. Call 8982545.

"NUDES," by Alan Cosio

Muñoz at Drawing Room

Maya Muñoz presents "November," until Sept. 15 in The Drawing Room, Metrostar Building, 1007 Metropolitan Avenue, Makati. Her series is grounded on the ambivalence of human temper, longing and memory. She captures the weather of the soul during November through an elegant mix of desolation landscapes and floating silhouettes. Call 8976990 or 8977877.

Santos at Silverlens

Drawing inspiration from the Renaissance period, Melbourne-based photographer Emmanuel Santos presents "The Passing of Light," Sept. 6- Oct. 2 in Silverlens Gallery, 2320 Pasong Tamo Ext., Warehouse 2, Yupangco Bldg. The 38 photographs in the exhibit derive their inspirations from the holy scriptures of the Bible, Torah and Koran. Call 8160044.

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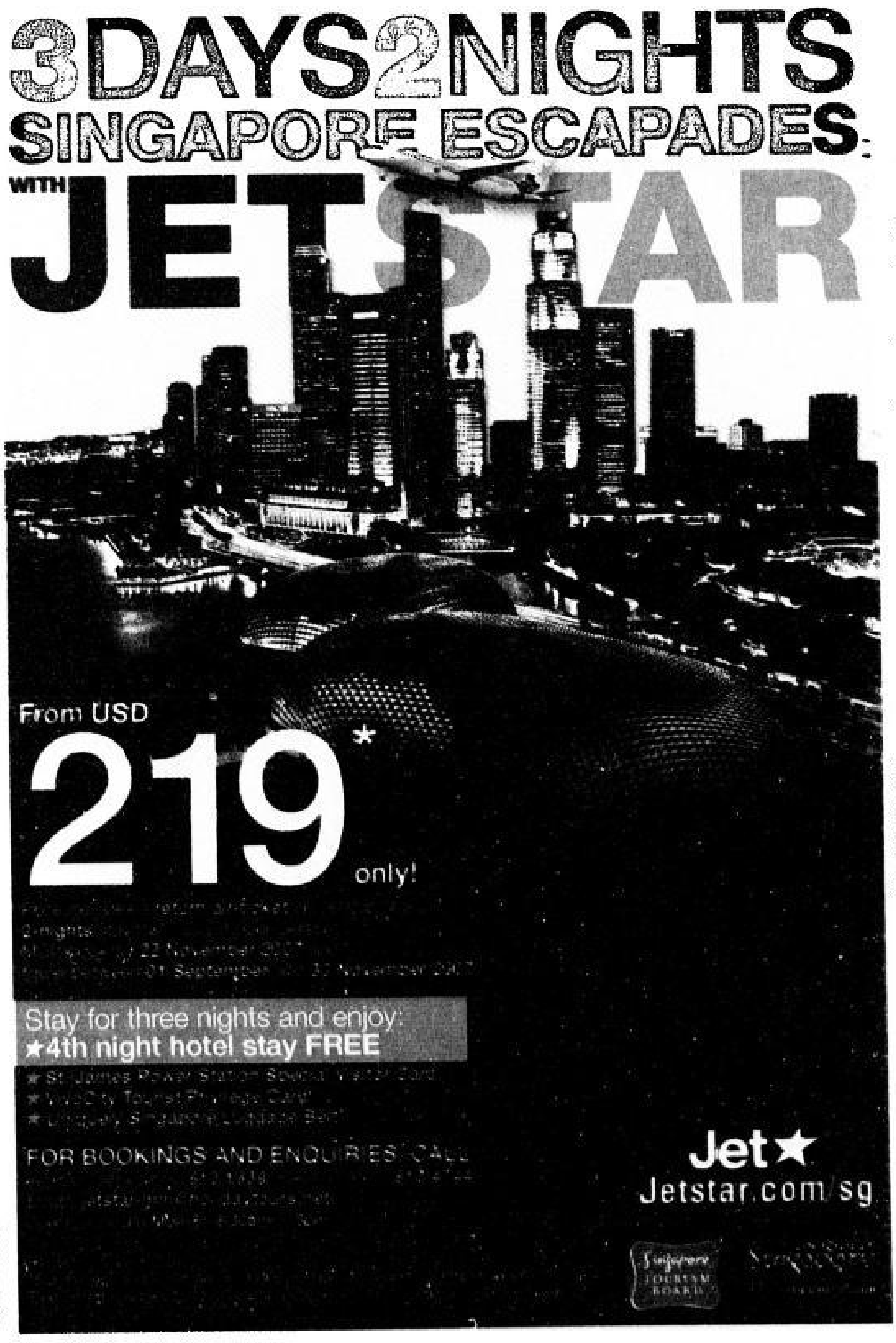
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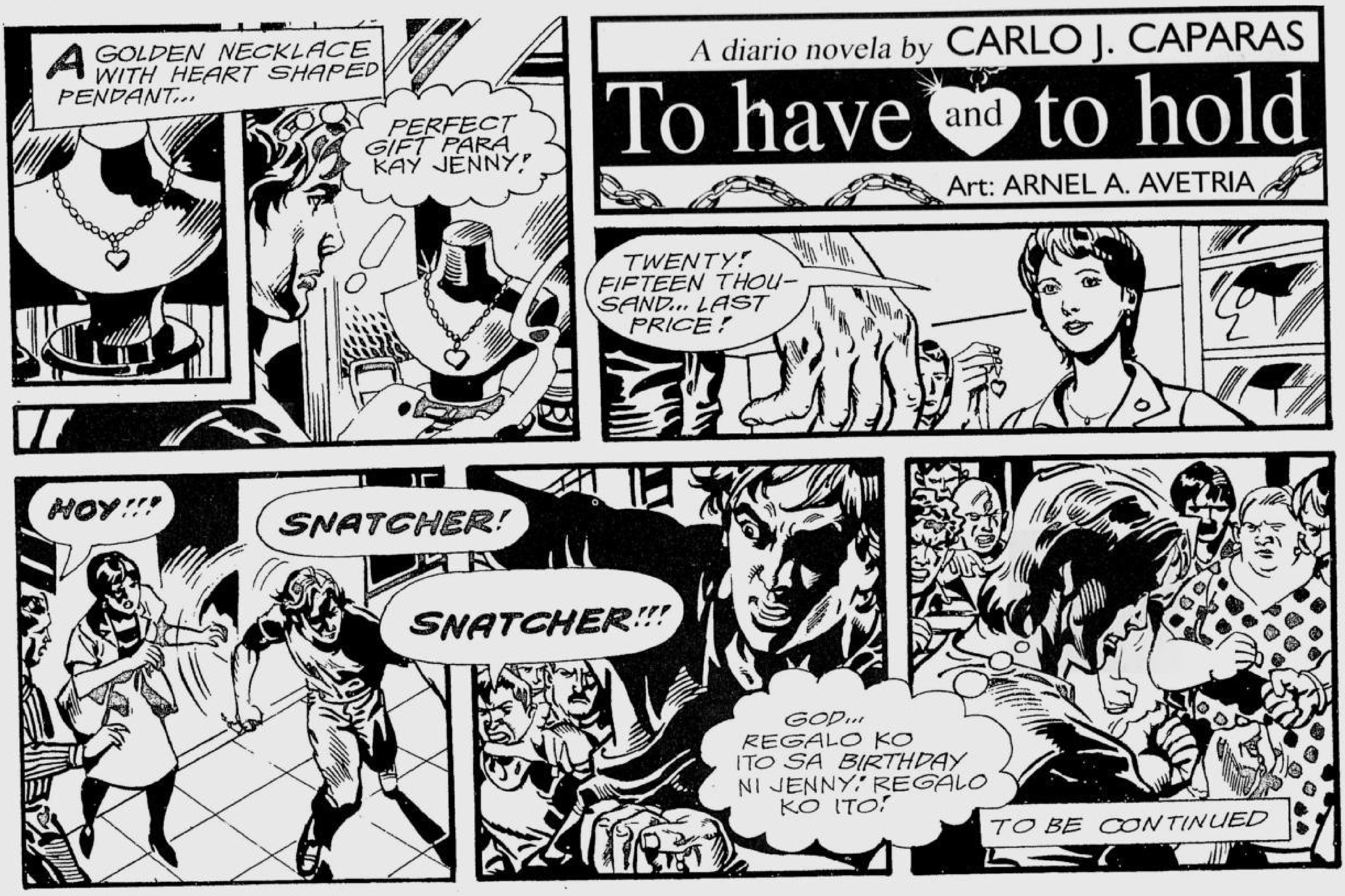
A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

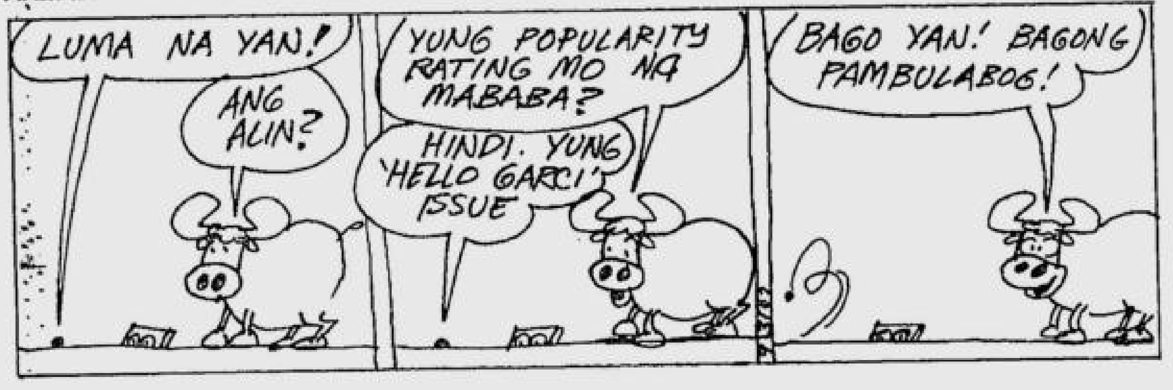
To have and to hold

Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA


A GOLDEN NECKLACE WITH HEART SHAPED PENDANT...
PERFECT GIFT PARA KAY JENNY!
TWENTY! FIFTEEN THOUSAND... LAST PRICE!
HOY!!!
SNATCHER!
SNATCHER!!!
GOD... REGALO KO ITO SA BIRTHDAY NI JENNY! REGALO KO ITO!
TO BE CONTINUED

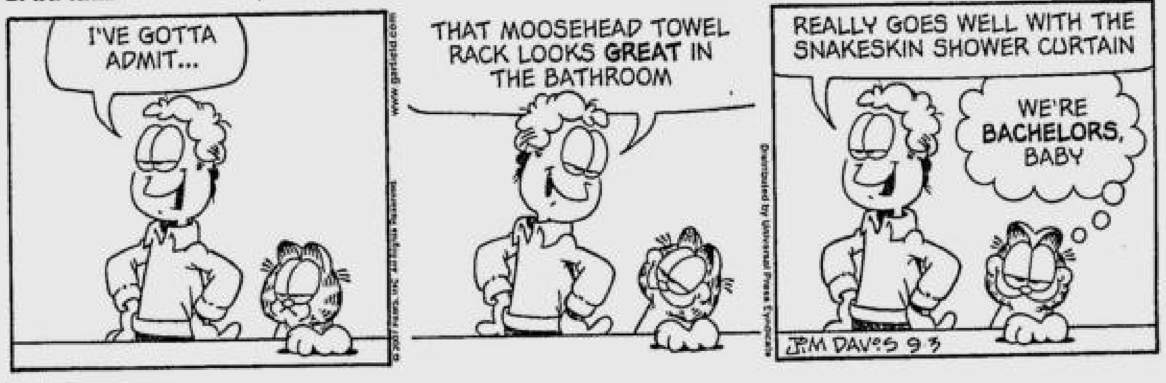
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


LUMA NA YAN!
ANG ALIN?
YUNG POPULARITY RATING MO NA MABABA?
HINDI. YUNG 'HELLO GARCI' ISSUE
BAGO YAN! BAGONG PAMBULABOG!

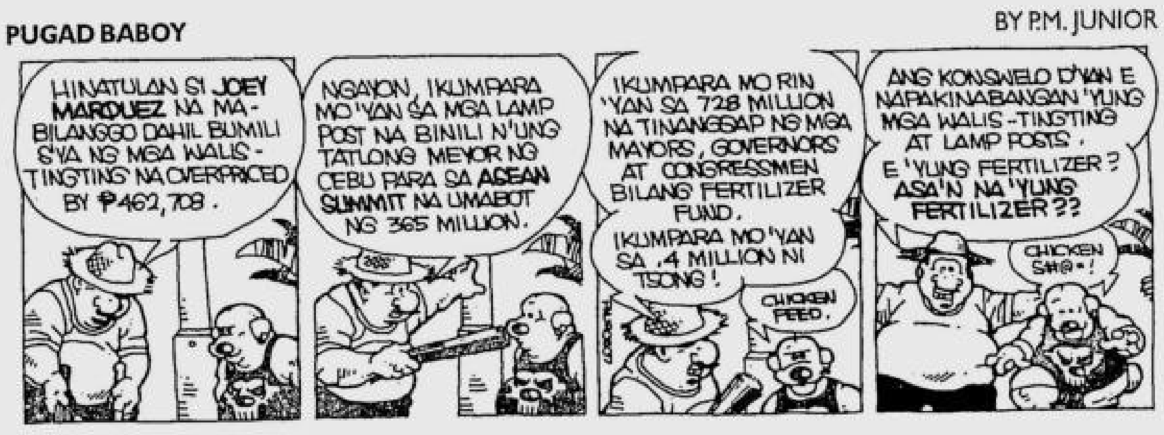
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


I'VE GOTTA ADMIT...
THAT MOOSEHEAD TOWEL RACK LOOKS GREAT IN THE BATHROOM
REALLY GOES WELL WITH THE SNAKESKIN SHOWER CURTAIN
WE'RE BACHELORS, BABY
www.garfield.com
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate
JIM DAVIS 9 3

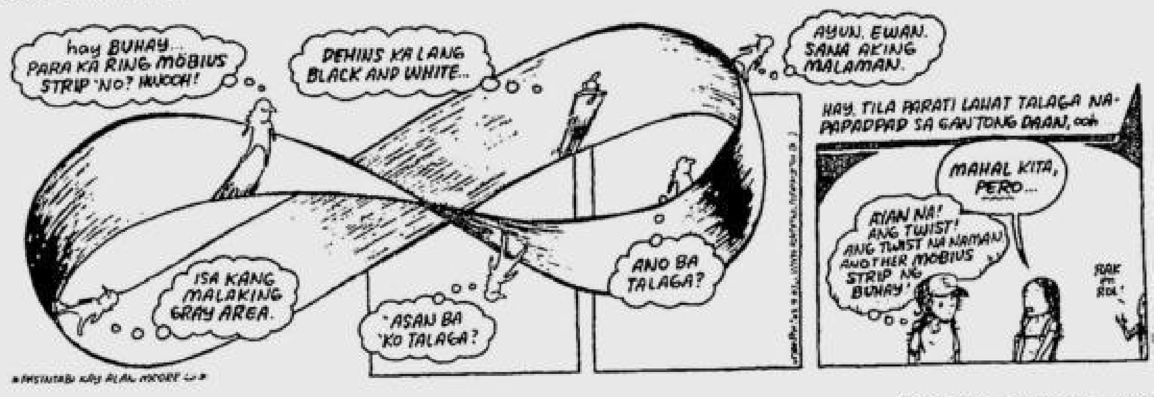
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


HINATULAN SI JOEY MARQUEZ NA MA-BILANGGO DAHIL BUMILI SYA NG MGA WALIS-TINGTING NA OVERPRICED BY ₱462,708.
NGAYON, IKUMPARA MO 'YAN SA MGA LAMP POST NA BINILI N'UNG TATLONG MEYOR NG CEBU PARA SA ASEAN SUMMIT NA UMABOT NG 365 MILLION.
IKUMPARA MO RIN 'YAN SA 728 MILLION NA TINANGGAP NG MGA MAYORS, GOVERNORS AT CONGRESSMEN BILANG FERTILIZER FUND.
IKUMPARA MO 'YAN SA .4 MILLION NI TSONG!
CHICKEN FEED.
ANG KONSWELO D'YAN E NAPAKINABANGAN 'YUNG MGA WALIS-TINGTING AT LAMP POSTS.
E 'YUNG FERTILIZER? ASA'N NA 'YUNG FERTILIZER??
CHICKEN SH@*!

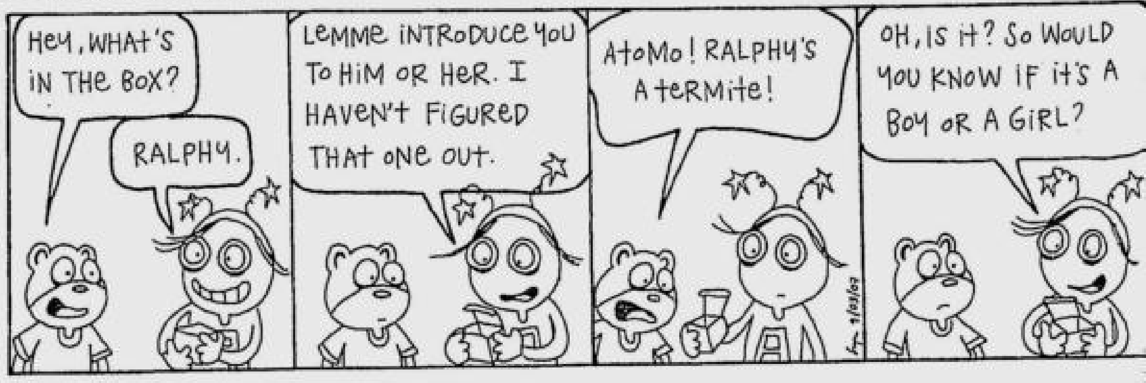
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA

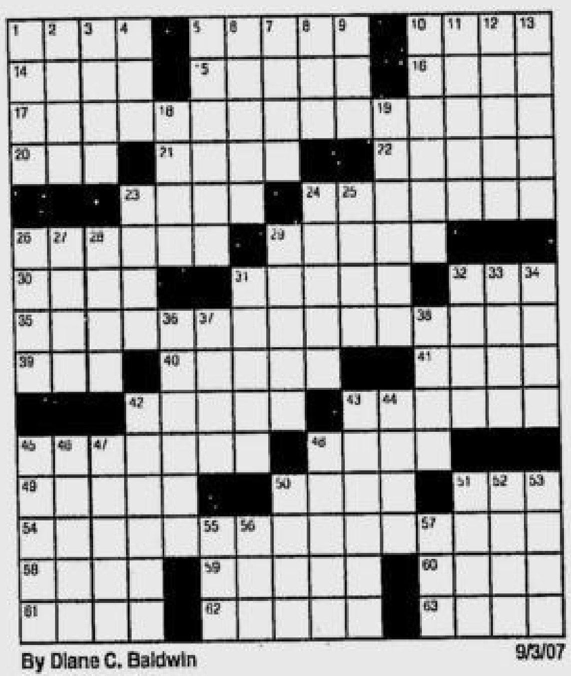

hay BUHAY... PARA KA RING MOBIUS STRIP 'NO? HUOCH!
DEHINS KA LANG BLACK AND WHITE...
AYUN. EWAN. SANA AKING MALAMAN.
ISA KANG MALAKING GRAY AREA.
'ASAN BA 'KO TALAGA?
ANO BA TALAGA?
HAY, TILA PARATI LAHAT TALAGA NA-PAPADPAD SA GANTONG DAAN, ooh
MAHAL KITA, PERO...
AYAN NA! ANG TWIST! ANG TWIST NA NAMAN! ANOTHER MOBIUS STRIP NG BUHAY!
RAK en ROL!
*PASINTABI KAY ALAN MOORE

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey, WHAT'S IN THE BOX?
RALPHY.
LEMME INTRODUCE YOU TO HIM OR HER. I HAVEN'T FIGURED THAT ONE OUT.
ATOMO! RALPHY'S A TERMITE!
OH, IS IT? SO WOULD YOU KNOW IF IT'S A BOY OR A GIRL?

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD

9/3/07

ACROSS
1 Baby powder
5 Subdued
10 Ta-ta, Giuseppe
14 Hodgepodge
15 Bright blue shade
16 Firm, cooking tomato
17 Definitely
20 Count me in!
21 Hits the road
22 Stick 'em up!
23 Political coalition
24 Dangerous African flies
26 Without fail
29 Separates out
30 Butcher's cut
31 Yoga position
32 Wharton School deg.
35 Absolutely
39 Praiseful composition
40 Doesn't have
41 College credit
42 Music units
43 Cause harm to
45 Party's candidate
48 Squirmy catches
49 Ambler and Lindros
50 Automobile shaft
51 Which person?
54 Unequivocally
58 French head
59 Shortcoming
60 Lay eyes on
61 Stone and Stallone
62 Spout from the dais
63 Zenith

DOWN
1 Theater award
2 Medicinal plant
3 Eye shades
4 Speak lovingly
5 No-nos
6 Tenochtitlan resident
7 No ___, no fuss
8 Time period
9 Gal at the ball
10 Vinegar-and-oil bottles
11 Tiny amounts
12 Liturgical vestment
13 Sworn words
18 Unaesthetic
19 Threatening words
23 Deadly poison
24 Ballet skirts
25 Insulting remark
26 As well
27 Hard on the ears
28 Electricity line
29 Diner employees
31 French school
32 Actress Freeman
33 Ship's lock-up
34 Poker stake
36 "The Tempest" king
37 Fulfill fully
38 Tramps
42 Recesses
43 Erase with a keystroke
44 Pub servings
45 Small salamanders
46 Cantilevered window
47 Fictional Walter
48 Jump for joy
50 Water color
51 Faint tendril
52 Rosy anticipation
53 Cameo stone
55 ET craft
56 Black goo
57 Kind of pot or bag

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

S	T	E		S	E	L	F	D	E	F	E	N	S	E
H	E	M		E	G	A	L	I	T	A	R	I	A	N
R	A	P		R	O	D	E	S	H	O	T	G	U	N
I	C	E	D			S	E	D			E	E	R	O
M	A	R	I	N	A		T	A	C	O		R	I	B
P	R	O	V	E	R	B		I	L	L		I	A	L
S	T	R	E	A	M	L	I	N	E	D		A	N	E
			S	T	E	A	D	F	A	S	T			
S	P	A		E	N	C	O	U	N	T	E	R	E	D
C	R	T		N	I	K		L	E	E	T	I	D	E
H	E	T		S	A	S	S		D	R	O	P	I	N
I	T	E	M			H	A	T			N	O	T	S
R	E	M	O	R	S	E	L	E	S	S		F	O	E
R	E	P	R	O	C	E	S	S	E	S		F	U	L
A	N	T	I	C	I	P	A	T	E	S		S	T	Y

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9/3/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're a practical, strong-willed person who enjoys the company of others. You're hardworking, realistic and have great powers of concentration. You're charming with words, and you probably have many friends and acquaintances. (You're as strong as an oak tree for your loved ones.) You're attracted to powerful people. The year ahead will present you with an important choice. Choose wisely.

Birthdate of: Charlie Sheen, actor; Al Jardine, musician/vocalist; Eileen Brennen, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is an accident-prone day for your sign. It's an accident-prone day for everyone, but especially for you. Please be careful. Take precautions. Nevertheless, Venus will help you enjoy your day!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Use caution against breakage or loss of your possessions. Something having to do with what you own or your financial scene is very crunchy today! Avoid fights about money.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is a bit of a schizoid day. In one way, you're upbeat and happy, and you can have a great time! However, you can also get into arguments and disputes with parents and authority figures. Tread carefully!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Something is upsetting you today. You're probably keeping it to yourself but doing a slow boil. This can make you have an accident. Slow down.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Squabbles between friends and groups are highly likely today. Strong competition is in the air. Nevertheless, at the same time, a friend will be helpful and kind to you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Summon up all your patience in your dealings with partners, parents, authority figures, the police and your boss today. You're frustrated. You want to blow off some steam. Think twice before you speak.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You might want to travel somewhere impulsively or do something different. Be careful, because this is an accident-prone time! Why not do your exploring closer to home?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Avoid arguments about shared possessions or jointly held property. You feel very independent today; you don't want others telling you what to do.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): It's so easy for arguments to break out today between partners and close friends. They will be domestically related. Fortunately, another planetary influence wants to keep things happy. Go with that.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Guard against accidents at work today. Owners of pets should be vigilant because an accident to a pet could happen today

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Parents must be very vigilant about children today. This is an accident-prone day, especially for the children of Aquarius parents. Be on your guard! Romance is rocky as well.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Family squabbles are likely today. People are touchy, irritable and rebellious. Be loving, kind and patient with everyone.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

		4		2		8		
9			1	8	5			2
8								1
	6		2		7		3	
2	5			3			9	6
	7		5		6		1	
5								7
1			7	5	9			3
		7		4		9		

Difficulty Level ★

9/03

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Answer to previous puzzle

3	8	6	5	1	9	7	2	4
1	2	7	3	6	4	8	9	5
5	4	9	8	2	7	1	6	3
7	1	5	6	9	2	4	3	8
4	6	2	7	8	3	5	1	9
9	3	8	4	5	1	6	7	2
6	7	3	9	4	8	2	5	1
8	9	1	2	7	5	3	4	6
2	5	4	1	3	6	9	8	7

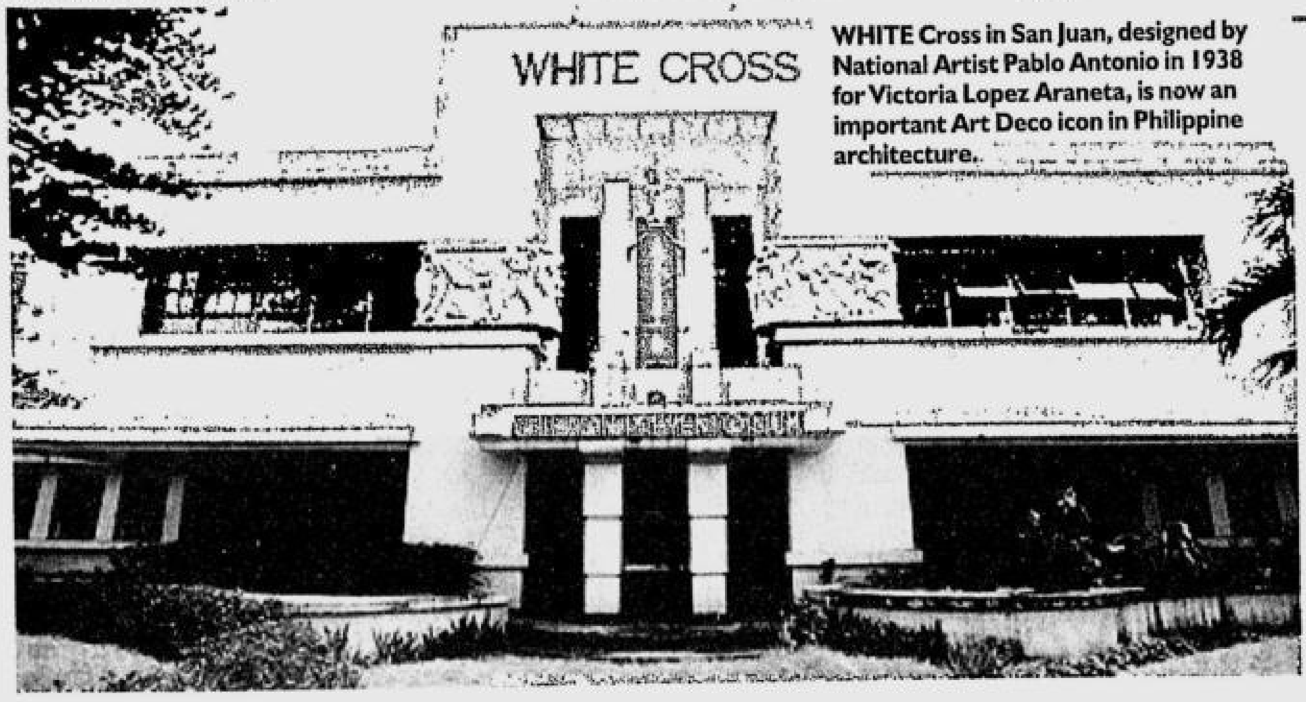
Difficulty Level ★★★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/lifestyle
Text us your feedback:
inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

LIFESTYLE



WHITE Cross in San Juan, designed by National Artist Pablo Antonio in 1938 for Victoria Lopez Araneta, is now an important Art Deco icon in Philippine architecture.

Photo book defines the Filipina soul, while a pioneer landscape architect states design principles

WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS

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PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto Villalon

Harvest of culture and design books

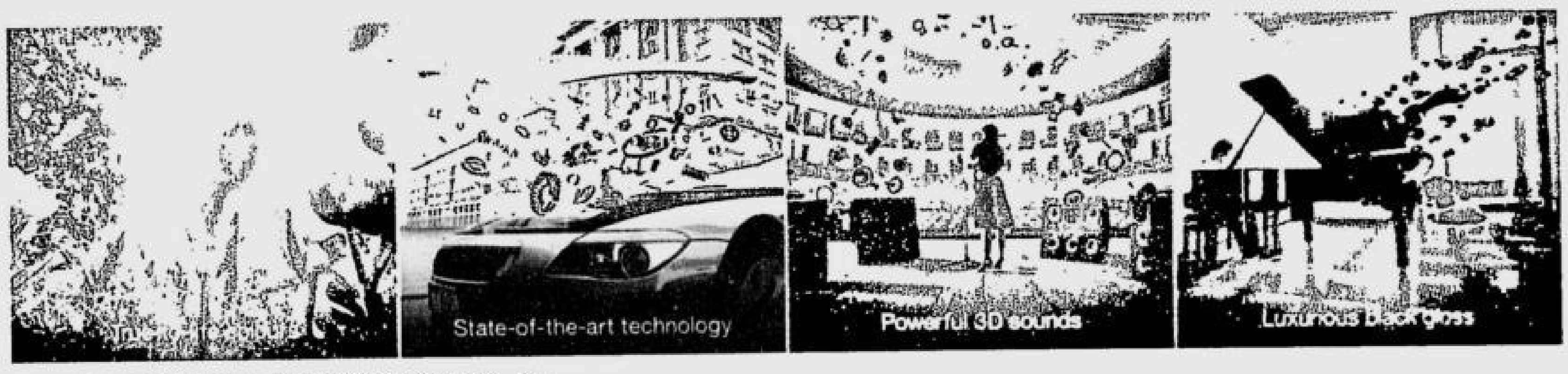
THIS IS THE SEASON TO EXPECT THE yearly harvest of new books. Adding to the 2007 bounty are three books scheduled for release this month: "Filipinas" by Isa Lorenzo; "Araneta, a Love Affair with God and Country" by Lina Araneta Santiago; and "Home, Haven, Heaven" by landscape architect Dolly Q. Perez.

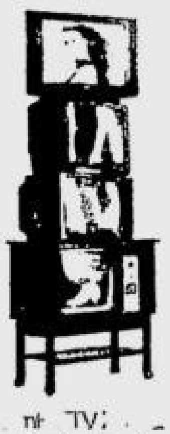
"Filipinas" is a powerful collection of black and white photographs of 30 women who have shaped not only their nation but also influenced their own professions and communities.

Although photographer Lorenzo shoots Philippine role models respected for courage and commitment, each of her subjects is a recognized cultural icon who is in

HARVEST/ E2

DELICIOUSLY HOT!
WORLD'S HOTTEST
Mother's Best
HOT SAUCE
NET CONTENT: 200 ML
SARAP NG PINOY
Mother's Best





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Journal makes faith more accessible

By Linda B. Bolido

THE CATHOLIC DIGEST, THE 71-year-old religious publication packaged for popular readership, is returning to the Philippines.

In a press conference during the recent Manila International Book Fair at the World Trade Center, Lirio P. Sandoval, president and chief executive officer of A-Z Direct Marketing, Inc., said the magazine was making its comeback in the country after an absence of about three years.

Sandoval said the magazine first appeared in the country in 1985 and ended its local run in 2004.

Now published by the Bayard Consumer Magazine Group, a division of Bayard Inc., and sponsored by Augustinians of the Assumption, the magazine is billed as "the only Catholic publication devoted exclusively to connecting faith and everyday life."

Debuting in 1936, Catholic Digest is estimated to have a readership of 2.5 million at present.

Sandoval said, while other religious publications tended to be "preachy" and didactic, Catholic Digest articles were livelier and easier to read.

Real stories

Bro. Didier Remiot, executive vice president of Bayard Inc., pointed out that features in the magazine were people's real stories of faith. Columns were meant to respond to questions related to everyday life, not just matters of faith.

Sandoval, whose company will distribute the magazine locally, expressed the hope they could eventually add Filipino stories, though packaged for international audiences, to increase the publication's appeal to local readers.

He noted that, locally, Catholic publishing was on a downtrend. But, he said, the country was full of inspiring stories that Filipinos could easily relate to if these were made less "preachy."

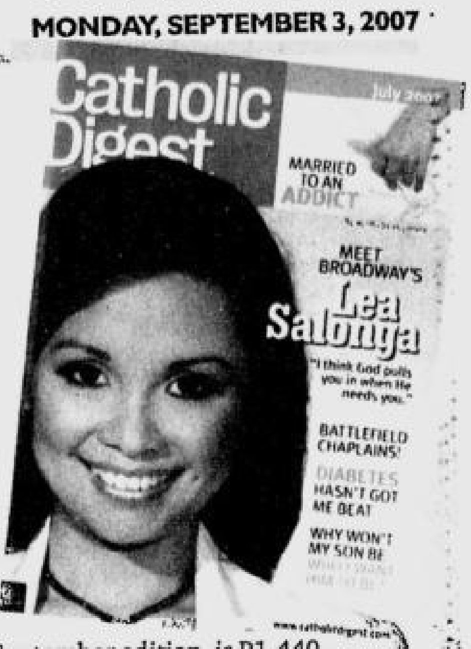
Sandoval is also open to the idea of having the Catholic Digest published in Filipino. He said in a recent meeting of local book publishers that it was the consensus that "Filipino books sell better than [those in] English even if they cost the same."

However, he said they would have to study carefully the cost of the project as finding good translators would not be easy. They would also have to be compensated well for their efforts.

"It may cost a lot [to have the magazine translated]," he said.

Didier agreed that logistics would be a critical factor. He said, in Belgium, despite its small population, the journal was published in both Dutch and French because both languages had viable markets.

He said in the short term a translation would not be feasible. However, "if there is a strong desire for a Filipino translation, we will consider it [but we have to take into account] financial viability."



The annual cover price for Catholic Digest, which has just released its September edition, is P1,440.

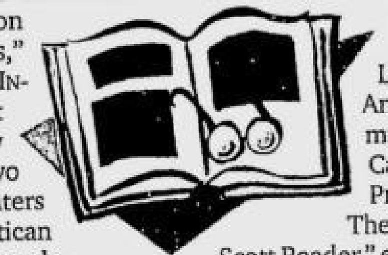
A-Z Direct Marketing Inc. is at 723 Sgt. Bumatay St., Plainview, Mandaluyong City; customer service 5337075, fax 5332399, e-mail friends@azdirect.com.ph.

Anvil is Publisher of the Year

ANVIL PUBLISHING INC. WAS NAMED Publisher of the Year at the 26th Manila Critics Circle National Book Awards last Aug. 31 at the Manila International Bookfair, World Trade Center, Pasay City.

Karina Bolasco, publishing manager for Anvil, received the award, which recognizes the Filipino publisher that released the best books in 2006. This was Anvil's second consecutive Publisher of the Year Award after winning it for 2005, and it is Anvil's eighth overall.

US Ambassador to the Philippines Kristie Kenney received a citation for supporting Philippine literature through the publication of an outstanding children's book. MCC chair Ophelia Alcantara Dimalanta delivered the closing remarks.



INQUIRER columnist Recah Trinidad's "Pacific Storm: Dispatches on Pacquiao of the Philippines," co-published by Anvil and INQUIRER Books, won Best Sports Book, while fellow columnist Ma. Ceres P. Doyo was a co-editor of "Daughters True: 100 Years of Scholastican Education, 1906-2006," published by St. Scholastica's College, which won Best Book on Education.

Founded in 1981, the Manila Critics Circle Inc. is a nonprofit, nonstock organization of professional literary critics and newspaper columnists. Current members are: National Artist Virgilio S. Almario, Juaniyo Arcellana, Cirilo F. Bautista, Fr. Miguel A. Bernad, SJ; Isagani R. Cruz, Ruel S. De Vera, Ophelia Alcantara Dimalanta (chair), Resil B. Mojares, Danton R. Remoto, Soledad S. Reyes and Alfred A. Yuson.

The complete list of winners:

Anthology: "The Manila We Knew," edited by Erlinda Enriquez Panlilio, Anvil. Art/Alfonso T. Ongpin Award for Best Book on Art: "Ani: The Life and Art of Hermogena Borja Lungay, Boholano Painter," by Marjorie Evasco, University of Santo Tomas Publishing House; "Brushstrokes from the Heart: Art-Petron, The First Five Years," by Alice G. Guillermo, Petron Corp. Biography/Autobiography: "Beyond the Great Wall: A Family Journal," by Mario, Alma, Maningning and Banaue Miclat, Anvil; "Kapitan: Geny Lopez and the Making of ABS-CBN," by Raul Rodrigo, ABS-CBN Publishing; "Myself, Elsewhere," by Carmen Guerrero Nakpil, Nakpil Publishing. Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Award for Best Book on Business and Economics: "Coconut: The Philippines' Money Tree," by Renato M. Labadan, RM Labadan and Associates and University Research and Resource Development; Children's Literature: "Bad Kings," by Gilda Cordero Fernando, Anvil; "The Cat Painter," by Becky Bravo, Adarna House. Cookbooks and Food: "The Governor-General's Kitchen: Philippine Culinary Vignettes and Period Recipes, 1521-1935," by Felice Prudente Sta. Maria, Anvil; "Potluck, Hidalgo Bonding: A Family Heritage Cookbook," edited by Jaime C. Laya and Adelaida Lim, Anvil. Drama: "Mga Premyadong Dula," by Lito Casaje, De La Salle University Press. Editing: "Great Scott!: The New Day William Henry Scott Reader," edited by Bezalie Bautista Uc-Kung, New Day. Education: "Daughters True: 100 Years of Scholastican Education, 1906-2006," edited by Neni Sta. Romana-Cruz, Paulynn Paredes Sicam, Karina Africa Bolasco, and Ma. Ceres P. Doyo, St. Scholastica's College. Essay: "Science Solitaire: Essays on Science, Nature, and Becoming Human," by Maria Isabel Garcia, Ateneo de Manila University Press. Fiction: Novel/Juan C. Laya Award for Best Novel in a Philippine Language: "(H)istoryador(a)," by Victor Emmanuel Carmelo D. Nadera Jr., University of the Philippines Press; "Ang Sandali ng mga Mata," by Alvin B. Yapan, ADMU Press. Ateneo de Manila University Press. Fiction: Novel/Juan C. Laya Award for Best Novel in a Foreign Language: "Banyaga: A Song of War," by Charlson Ong, Anvil; "The Jupiter Effect," by Katrina Tuvera, Anvil. Fiction, Short: "Maligayang Pagdating sa Sitio Catacutan: Mga Kuwentong Kasisindakan, Aklat 1-2," by Tony Perez, Anvil; "Pagluwas," by Zosimo Quibilan Jr., UP Press. Film: "Postmodern Filming of Literature: Sources, Contexts and Adaptations," by Joyce L. Arriola, UST Publishing House. Cultural Studies: "Kasaysayan at Pag-unlad ng Dulaang Pambata sa Pilipinas," by Arthur P. Casanova, UST Publishing House; "Treading Through: 45 Years of Philippine Dance," by Basilio Esteban S. Villaruz, University of the Philippines Press and Philippine Folklife Museum Foundation. Poetry: "Apokripos," by Jerry B. Gracio, UP Press; "Gagamba sa Uhay: Kalipunan ng mga Haiku," by Rogelio G. Mangahas, C&E Publishing. Sciences: "A Guide to Families of Common Flowering Plants in the Philippines," by Irma Remo Castro, UP Press; "Introduction to Complementary and Alternative Medicine (C.A.M.)," by Victoriano Y. Lim, UST Publishing House. Social Sciences: "Adios, Patria Adorada: The Filipino as Ilustrado, the Ilustrado as Filipino," by Alfredo Roces, DLSU Press. Sports: "Pacific Storm: Dispatches on Pacquiao of the Philippines," by Recah Trinidad, Anvil/INQUIRER Books. Theology and Religion: "God Was Not in the Wind: An Evolutionary Understanding of Popular Religion in the Philippines," by Jimmy A. Belita, C.M., Adamson University Press. Translation: "The Colonial Odyssey of Leyte, 1521-1914," by Manuel Artigas y Cuerva, translated by Rolando O. Borrinaga and Cantius J. Kobak, New Day; "Gagamba sa Uhay: Kalipunan ng mga Haiku," by Rogelio G. Mangahas, translated by Marne L. Kilates, C&E Publishing. Best Design: "The Governor-General's Kitchen: Philippine Culinary Vignettes and Period Recipes, 1521-1935," by Felice Prudente Sta. Maria, designed by Guillermo Ramos, Anvil. Citations: "Sawikaan: Mga Salita ng Taon," 2004-2006, University of the Philippines Press, Ayala Foundation—for children's books on paintings: "Juan Luna: Patriot and Painter," by Carla C. Pacis; "The Boy Who Lost a Father and Found the Sun: The Life of Maestro Fernando Amorsolo," by Rene Villanueva; "Fernando Zobel: The Man Who Painted Ideas," by Maria Elena Paterno; Sy Yinchow, for a lifetime of translating Philippine literature into Chinese. Publisher of the Year: Anvil Publishing, Inc.

2007 Palanca winners

MULTI-AWARDED PLAYwright and poet Nicholas B. Pichay has been elevated to the Palanca Hall of Fame after winning his fifth first prize with his Filipino full-length play entry, "Tres Ataques de Corazon," in the 2007 Palanca Awards.

The list of winners for this year's Palanca Awards, half of which are first-time winners, include:

Filipino Division

Dulaang Pampelikula: First prize, Miguel G. Alcarazen ("Prisoner Alpha"); second prize, Marlon G. Manuel ("Kolono"); third prize, Renei Patricia E. Dimla ("Katay")

Dulaang Ganap ang Haba: First prize, Nicolas B. Pichay ("Tres Ataques de Corazon"); second prize, Edward P. Perez ("Apuntador"); third prize, Rodolfo C. Vera ("Ang Mga Huwad")

Dulaang may Isang Yugto: First prize, Christopher D. Martinez ("Our Lady of Arlegui"); second prize, José Dennis C. Teodosio ("Baka Sakali"); third prize, Lateya P. Bucuy ("Elias Inocentes")

Sanaysay: First prize, Annalyn L. Leyesa ("Bahay-Bahayan"); second prize, Ma. Jovita E. Zarate ("Sa Hulo't Libis ng Aking Bayan"); third prize, Maribel Bagabaldo-Frasure ("Stet")

Kabataan Sanaysay: First prize, Anna Larisa Victoria U. Vega ("Ang Huling Ngiti ng Pagkalinga"); second prize, Mary Anne Jelli E. Gaza ("Isang Siglo, Isang Dekada't Isang Taon"); third prize, Kathleen Teresa M. Ramos ("Tatawa Na 'Yan")

Tula: First prize, Carlos M. Piocos III ("Corpus"); second prize, Rebecca T. Añonuevo ("Paglingon sa Pag-Asa at Iba Pang Tula"); third prize, Renato L. Santos ("Sosy, Atbp....")

Maikling Kuwentong Pambata: First prize, Sheila Gonzales-de la Cuesta ("Junior"); second prize, Joachim Emilio B. Antonio ("Ang Ampalaya sa Pinggan ni Peepo"); third prize, Michael M. Coroza ("Imbisibol Man ang Tatay")

Maikling Kuwento: First prize, Allan Albert N. Derain ("Paputian ng Laba"); second prize, Jerome B. Gomez ("Desperately, Susan"); third prize, Dana Batnag ("D Bampyr Chronicles... O Kwento ng Mga Tao sa Bayang Walang Hope")

Maikling Kuwento-Cebuano: First prize, Merlie M. Alunan ("Pamato"); second prize, Ferdinand L. Balino ("Absent, Ma'am"); third prize, Noel P. Tuazon ("Kundat sa Unang Gugma")

Maikling Kuwento-Hiligaynon: First prize, Peter Solis Nery ("Candido"); second prize, Felino Salem Garcia Jr. ("Sa Hingapusan"); third prize, no winner

Maikling Kuwento-Iluko: First prize, Noli S. Dumlao ("Dadapilan"); second prize, Bernardo D. Tabbada ("Ti Danapidip nga Addang ni Manong Rod"); third prize, Aurelio S. Agcaoili ("Alimpapatok iti Panawen ti Ariangga")

English Division

Full-Length Play: First prize, Jorshinelle Taleon-Sonza ("Pure"); second prize, Glenn Sevilla Mas ("Games People Play"); third prize, Cynthia Lapeña-Amador ("The Piano")

One-Act Play: First prize, Debbie Ann Tan ("Time Waits"); second prize, Joshua L. Lim So ("Portraits"); third prize, Allan Lopez ("Battery Park")

Poetry: First prize, Mikael de Lara Co ("Hands for a Fistful of Sand"); second prize, Jose Edmundo Ocampo Reyes ("Imaginary Numbers"); third prize, Dinah Roma-Sinaturi ("Geographies of Light")

Short Story: First prize, Angelo R. Lacuesta ("Flames"); second prize, Douglas James Limpe Candano ("Dreaming Valhalla"); third prize, Crystal Gail Shangkuan Koo ("Benito Salazar's Last Creation")

Short Story for Children: First prize, Lakambini Sitoy ("The Elusive Banana Dog"); second prize, Dean Francis Alfar ("Poor, Poor Luisa"); third prize, Ian Fermin Casocot ("The Last Days of Magic")

Essay: First prize, Wilfredo O. Pascual Jr. ("Lost In Childrensville"); second prize, Rosalinda Lejano-Massebieau ("Culture Shocked: A Story of Recovery"); third prize, Allan J. Pastrana ("The Lady's Train")

Kabataan Essay: First prize, Cristina Gratia T. Tantengco ("Humor, Faith, Bayanihan and Kayod: Survival Tools for the 21st Century Filipino"); second prize, Juan Emmanuel P. Batuhan ("Sterling Pinoy"); third prize, Hannah L. Co ("Adaptability")

Established in 1950 to honor Don Carlos Palanca Sr., the Palanca Awards aims to serve as an incentive for Filipino writers to craft their outstanding literary works; to serve as a repository of Filipino literary masterpieces; and to disseminate the public especially students.

Harvest of culture and design books

From page E1

total touch with the ordinary, day-to-day world. Lorenzo captures inner radiance, brings out the wistful, the playful, and the feminine that humanize her subjects, despite their being women of power.

Since its launch at the Cultural Center of the Philippines a few years ago, the "Filipinas" exhibition has traveled to various Manila locations and overseas to the Unesco headquarters in Paris. Once again the photographs are on public view in the new Fully Booked of Bonifacio High Street, Sept. 10-17.

The images are now gathered in a luxurious, handsome publication designed by Isabel Roxas to be launched in a book-signing event with the author on Sept. 14 in Fully Booked High Street.

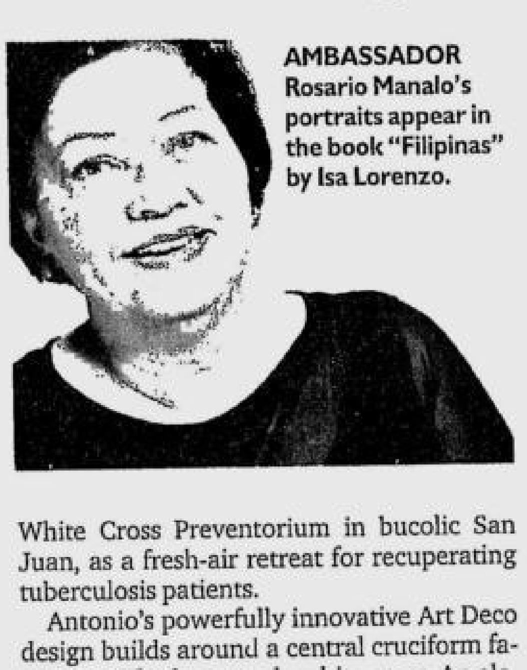
Araneta legacy

On Sept. 26, Santiago launches her book, "Araneta, a Love Affair with God and Country," a daughter's account of two centuries of the intertwined lives of the Araneta, Zaragoza, Lopez and Ledesma families.

Not only does the author look into family history, their political and religious views, and economic activities, the book also offers intimate, nostalgic lifestyle glimpses from a succession of eras locked in the past that can never return.

Victoneta, the 33-room Araneta home in rural Mandaluyong of 1933, was the center of family life. In "Remembrance of Things Awry," Augusto Gonzalez III states: "It was a splendid Hispano-Moresque-Mediterranean-style residence that sprawled on 1.7 hectares... in the style of the grand residences designed by Addison Mizner in Palm Beach [Florida]. Three prominent architects were employed in succession to complete the villa: Juan Arellano, Lerma and Andrés Luna de San Pedro."

For her favorite charity project, Victoria Lopez Araneta commissioned the young architect Pablo Antonio, now elevated to National Artist for Architecture, to design the White Cross Preventorium in bucolic San Juan, as a fresh-air retreat for recuperating tuberculosis patients.



AMBASSADOR Rosario Manalo's portraits appear in the book "Filipinas" by Isa Lorenzo.

Antonio's powerfully innovative Art Deco design builds around a central cruciform façade motif, a large-scale white cross. An elegant, fluid frieze by Francesco Monti, a highly talented Italian expatriate sculptor, softens the rigidity of the sharp, linear façade.

Now jointly designated by the CCP and the United Architects of the Philippines as one of the important landmarks of Philippine architecture, the White Cross building has survived through the years and, since penicillin has rendered preventoria obsolete, continues to be used today as an orphanage.

Santiago launches her book on Sept. 26 at the White Cross. All sales proceeds are donated to White Cross.

Total home

Perez, a pioneer female landscape architect in the Philippines, synthesizes over 20 years of private professional practice in her first book, "Home, Haven, Heaven."

Although a landscape architect, she writes about the total home environment rather than only gardens that, as she believes, form the totality of the home.

Her book "is not a collection of architectural masterpieces, it provides the homeowner with tools for dialoguing with designers... helpful for those in various stages of homebuilding..." and definitely helpful for those who prefer to do their homes themselves.

It is a book that encourages homemakers to remain "in control, pointing out the common pitfalls that stand in the way of making a house a home, encouraging that people feel 'at home' in their own dwellings" rather than living by the dictates of a designer.

Perez takes us on a journey that avoids "starchitect"-designed showpiece homes. If some houses she visits are professionally designed, she chooses examples where owner personality directs designer directions.

She leads us through very private, lived-in homes, opened to public eyes for the first time, chosen for the book because they provide nurturing spaces for the owners and their children to lead their lives in the manner that suits them best.

Rich visuals photographed by Bo Gancayco illuminate each of the three chapters, "From House to Home," "From Home to Haven," and "From Haven to Heaven." Gancayco's sumptuous images bring home Perez's lesson that personal comfort is really what living is all about.

"Filipinas" is available in Fully Booked High Street. For information on "Araneta, a Love Affair with God and Country," e-mail wcch@i-next.net or call White Cross at 7242145. Information on "Home, Haven, Heaven" will be published in this column later.

Heritage watch

Outstanding photographs of modern Philippine cultural venues by Paulo Alcazaren are exhibited until Sept. 29 in Yuchengco Museum, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati.

E-mail that author at pride.place@gmail.com

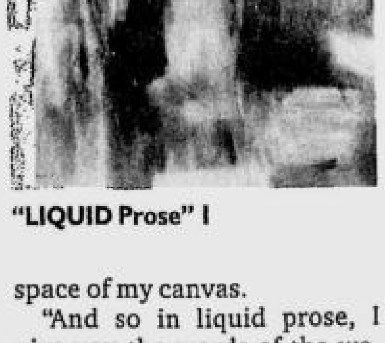
Lascano at Astra

RICO LASCANO'S "LIQUID Prose" is running in Galerie Astra (2/L, LRI Business Plaza, Nicanor Garcia St. [formerly Reposo], Bel Air II, Makati City.

"As an artist, I've always been drawn to the visual language of water," says Lascano.

"Water brings me to a state of pure contemplation. Its immeasurable depth invokes a rich palette of emotions. Its moving, flowing motion captures the profusion of thoughts and feelings I am experiencing.

"In water I find a deep and soulful connection. Whether I'm capturing the image of a serene pond, a running river or a surging stream, there is a quiet language, a lyrical ritual, a tantalizing tale that seem to suddenly float in the pictorial space of my canvas.



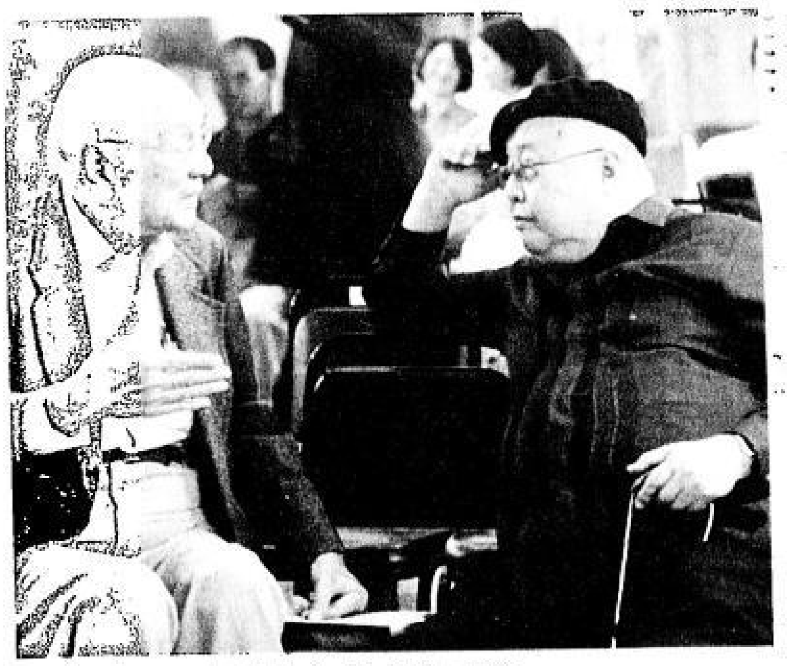
"LIQUID Prose" I

"And so in liquid prose, I give you the words of the waters; veiled with the merest whispers of brushstrokes, and reverently mouthed in the sensitive layering of washed hues."

The show runs until Sept. 7. Call 890-3988.

THE BOOK gathers essays by F. Sionil José (autographing a copy), Alfred Yuson and Vicente Groyon on the 400th anniversary of the publication of "Don Quixote."

BOOK-LOVERS have their copies signed by the authors.



JOSÉ and economist-historian Benito Legarda

Quixotic, romantic book launching

INSTITUTO Cervantes director José "Pepe" Rodriguez, José, Vicente Groyon and Tessie José

IT WAS A QUIXOTIC AND WILDLY VISIONary and romantic evening when the Instituto Cervantes, the dynamic Spanish cultural agency, led by its dapper Manila director, José "Pepe" Rodriguez, launched "If a Filipino Writer Reads Don Quixote," last Aug. 30, at the World Trade Center in connection with the 28th Manila International Book Fair.

Co-published with the University of Santo Tomas Publishing House, the book is a collection of essays by National Artist F. Sionil José, Alfred Yuson and Vicente Groyon, on the novel by Miguel de Cervantes.

The essays were originally written and presented in 2005 to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the novel, which is universally acclaimed as the first and the greatest novel of all time.

Hispanophiles and book-lovers, young and old alike, flocked to the launching. Among them were economist, historian and former Central Bank official Benito Legarda; poet-physician Alice Sun-Cua; and writer-executive Alma Miclat.

Also there were top functionaries from Instituto Cervantes and UST Publishing House such as José Ma. Fons, Jocelyn Tullao-Calubayan, artist Buen Calubayan, Jack Wigley and INQUIRER Arts editor and UST professor Lito Zulueta, who wrote the book's introduction.

"If a Filipino Writer Reads Don Quixote" is available in major bookstores. Call Instituto Cervantes at 5261482- 85; or UST Publishing House at 7313522, 4061611 loc. 8252, 8278.

Seminar-workshop on creativity for teachers rescheduled

"FLIGHTS OF FANCY: A CALL TO CREATIVity and the Creative Teaching of Literature," the two-day faculty seminar and workshop organized by the University of Santo Tomas-Center for Creative Writing and Studies (UST-CCWS) for literature, creative writing and English professors will push through on Sept. 19-20.

The seminar-workshop, which will be held at St. Thomas Aquinas Research Center, is designed to equip professors with the working tools with which to appraise, analyze and critique poems and stories; the imaginative approach in effectively teaching these works to students; and a welter of reading suggestions that are abreast with the best of Philippine literature in English and Filipino.

Meant to be interactive, the seminar-workshop offers a venue where participants can gain insight into the creative process of writers who are themselves teachers and share the challenges they face in teaching literature.

Led by UST-CCWS director Ophelia Alcantara-Dimalanta and senior associate Cirilo Bautista, speakers include literature professor Mike Coroza, and CCWS junior associates and writers Manolito Sulit, Eros Atalia and Carlomar Arcangel Daoana. An awarding of certificate will cap the event.

Seminar fee is P2,000 for early birds, which already covers meals and kits. Walk-in participants will be charged P2,500. Limited slots only. Deadline for reserving a slot is Sept. 15. Call 4061611 loc. 8281 or e-mail the_seachild@yahoo.com.

Kaisa marks 20th year with 'Tsinoy' play

FROM IMPOVERISHED IMMIGRANTS who left China to save their kin from famine, to a young fire volunteer who gave up his life to rescue a Pinoy family, the Tsinoy has traversed thousands of years in Philippine history, leaving their invaluable imprint on Philippine society.

This story is depicted in an entertaining and insightful musical revue called "Tsinoy-Kaisa Ka!" The show is written and directed by renowned theater director Nestor Torre, whose acclaimed productions "Magnificat," "Magsimula Ka," "Birhen ng Caysasay" and "Pag-ibig sa Bayan" have been shown all over the country.

A fundraiser for Kaisa Para sa Kaunlaran's 20th anniversary, this theatrical event will be presented on Sept. 14 and 15. Regular runs of the revue are scheduled on Nov. 4 and 6 at the Kaisa-Angelo King Heritage Center in Intramuros.

Original songs written and composed by Torre, Rito Asilo, Noelani Torre and June Murillo are sung by a gifted cast of Tsinoy performers: Sherwin Siozon, Daphne Chiu, Helen Lim Benoza, Eva Marie Poon, Paul Kelvin Ong, Lizabeth Valerie Yap, Lorraine Teng, Edwin Tan and Ang Chak Chi.

Production design is by Leo Rialp and lights are by Martin Esteva. Cameo appearances will be made by leading Tsinoy personalities, to further underscore the Chinese-Filipino community's deep involvement in Kaisa's projects.

This 20th-anniversary show will raise funds for the Heritage Center, which houses the Bahay Tsinoy museum.

Call 5276083, 5266796 or 4820512 or e-mail kaisa@philonline.com or kaisadotph@yahoo.com. The Kaisa-Angelo King Heritage Center is at 32 Anda corner Cabildo Sts., Intramuros, Manila.

CHORUS Philippines

Chorus Philippines at Paco Park

CHORUS PHILIPPINES, ONE OF THE country's leading chamber choirs, opens Paco Park Presents' second season this year on Sept. 7, 6 p.m.

Titled "Around the World in 60 Minutes," the concert will feature well-loved folk and pop songs from Asia, Philippines, Europe and America as arranged by choirmaster Joy T. Nilo.

The three-part program opens with Asian folk tunes, namely Katak Lompat and Singapura Medley (Malaysia); Jaya Ho (India); Bengawan Solo (Indonesia); Loi Krathong (Thailand); Zan-Mei Ye-Su (Taiwan).

Also to be featured are Filipino folk tunes such as Chua-ay (Ifugao); Malinac Lay Labi (Pangasinan); Turog Na Nonoy Ko (Bicol), Bannatiran (Ilocos); Rosas Pandan (Cebu).

The choir will also render a capella arrangements of "The First Time I Loved Forever" from "Beauty and the Beast," Negro spiritual song "Soon Ah Will Be Don," Abba's "Super Trouper" and The Beatles' "I Will."

Founded in 2002, Chorus Philippines is composed of church choristers, professionals and conservatory students brought together by the passion for reviving folk and classical music.

Admission to "Paco Park Presents" is free.

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45 years of the Asian Social Institute

ASI aims to train leaders and policymakers in the Philippines and in Asia to help bring to fruition the social teachings of the Church

By Visitacion R. de la Torre
Contributor

THE ASIAN SOCIAL INSTITUTE (ASI), now housed in a complex of three-story buildings in Leon Guinto corner Pedro Gil Streets in Malate, Manila, was founded in 1962 by a Dutch missionary of the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (CICM), Fr. Francis Senden, PhD.

It began as a graduate school with two programs, sociology and economics, and has become one of the country's premier graduate schools, with courses in Economics, Education, Sociology, Pastoral Sociology, and Social Work, as well as a doctorate degree in Applied Cosmic Anthropology, and a Bachelor's degree in Social Work.

ASI aims to train leaders and policymakers in the Philippines and in Asia to help bring about "in socio-religious contexts the social teachings of the Church." In other words, ASI basically helps to produce socially oriented men and women and institutions that will assist in bridging the gap between the rich and the poor, the dominant culture with the popular culture, the person with his or her environment. It offers a new look at life that favors the poor, the oppressed, the marginalized.

As ASI president Dr. Mina M. Ramirez emphasizes, "The main problems plaguing our society—monetary poverty, violence and degradation of the environment—victimize especially the basic sectors, the fisherfolk, farmers, indigenous groups, urban communities, children, youth and women. They have led to what I believe is the fragmentation of body, mind and spirit, causing deep divides in society—economic, cultural, social, intergenerational, digital, and ecological. All sciences—physical, human, social and metaphysical—should get integrated to promote the fullness of life for all."

To many people who know ASI, it is more than a school. It is a movement, a world view, a community of faith. Its main objective is to train social development managers and encourage the self-empowerment of grassroots leaders and communities. Through this process, ASI has given birth to social development organizations such as Senden Home, one of Manila's first halfway houses for street children; Social Action for Rural and Urban Development Inc., a marketing arm, locally and abroad, for 52 handicraft production units; Calariz (Cavite, Laguna, Rizal Fisherfolk); Lakas ng Pagkakaisa (United Organization of Marginalized Urban Dwellers); and Center for Small Entrepreneurs.

Doctoral program

ASI has developed a doctoral program, known as Applied Cosmic Anthropology, based on Senden's philosophy of part-and-whole integration.

Dr. Epitacio S. Palispis, now vice president of Trinity University of Asia, says, "The influence of the Applied Cosmic Anthropology Program in me has led me to think beyond the conventional, beyond the tangibles, and has made me reflect on the need for an integrated whole. The interconnectedness of beings to other beings, to the rest of creation, and to the universe has always reminded me to be holistic in terms of planning and decision-making."

Another graduate, Dr. Ronel de la Cruz, program director of the General Education Department of St. Paul University, Quezon City, says, "The course itself is both a journey and a shift to a deeper understanding of human existence, a recognition of one's interconnectedness, and a creation of conditions for transformation and sustainable development. It upholds the principles of a sustainable future which includes the quality of life, justice and equality, participation and partnership, care for the environment, and thought for the future."

For those who like to catch its spirit of faith and solidarity, ASI offers several flagship seminars. Among these are the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Workshops, the Project Planning and Development Seminars, Training for Community Extension, Principles, Methods and Application in Research, Paralegal Seminars, etc.

Visit www.asinet-online.org.

Ateneo community service awards handed out

ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY gave out community service and excellence awards recently.

The awardees were Fr. Edward Malone, MM, for the Bukas Palad Award in Memory of Fr. Manuel Peypoch, SJ; doctors José M. Tiongco and Charles L. Cheng, for the Ozanam Award; public school principal Benjamin G. Caling, for the Government Service Award; Kaisa Para sa Kaunlaran Inc. (Kaisa), for the Parangal Lingkod Sambayanan; and the Philippine Educational Theater Association (Peta), for the Gawad Tanglaw ng Lahi.

Father Malone was recognized for his significant contributions to the development of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conference since its inception in 1972.

Kaisa was recognized for its initiatives in nation-building and in bridging Chinese-Filipinos with other communities to enable their meaningful participation in social development, cultural and educational activities.

Peta was recognized for its vision of using theater as a powerful tool for social change and development.

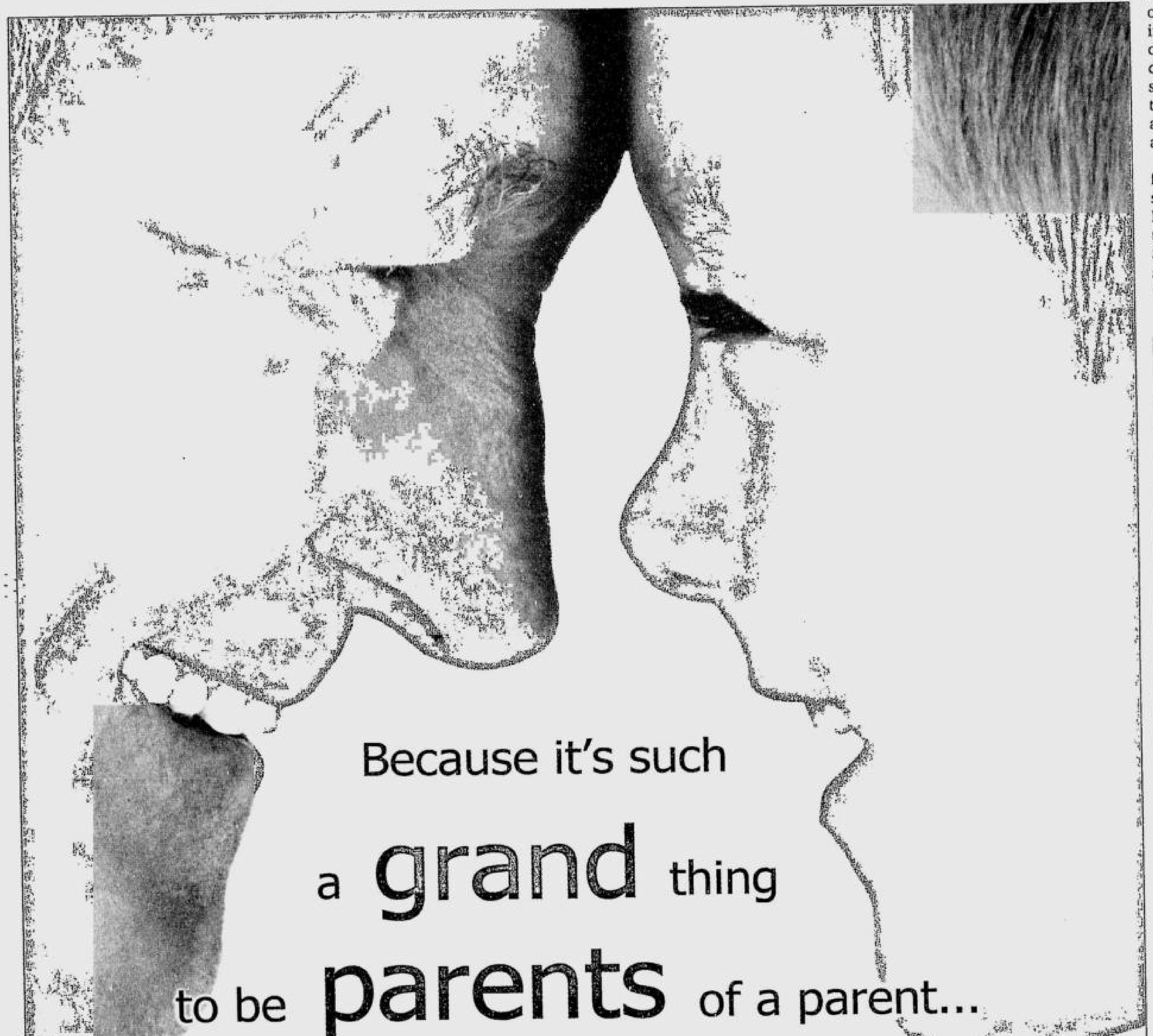
Tiongco was recognized for his 21 years of advocacy for cooperative health systems to better deliver health services to the poor.

Cheng was recognized for his commitment and dedication in serving the poor people of the Cordilleras.

Caling was recognized for his zeal for the improvement of public education.

AT THE ATENEO de Manila University Awards: Ma. Isabel Legarda, Peta artistic director; Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, who received the award on behalf of Father Malone; Benjamin Caling

FR. BIENVENIDO F. Nebres, Ateneo president; Dr. Charles Cheng, Dr. José Tiongco, and Eleonor Tsumura of Kaisa



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Sept. 8	The Grand Serenade of The U.P. Manila Chorale *A brilliant and internationally-acclaimed youth choir serenades with their amazing voices.*	5pm
Sept. 9	Enervon Power Of The Mind *A very special treat to Grandparents with active minds and stronger bodies*	whole day affair
Sept. 16	Sail Back To The Good Ol' Times *A relaxing rendition of the classics and all time favorites*	5pm
Sept. 21	Martin Nievera Live at The Block *A voice of power waiting to capture our hearts once again*	5pm

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Events at The Lounge

Sept. 9	Grandparents' Day Celebration *Share your moments with GrandPa and GrandMa. Free instant picture and developing with magnetic frame card.*	*3pm onwards*
	Vintage Nights with Joe Nicholas' 4 piece Band	4pm-7pm
Sept. 21	Brilliant and Heartwarming Moments with Jose Mari Chan	5pm
Sept. 22	Spectacular Broadway Classics with DLSU Pops Orchestra	6pm

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**
sms feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) **or email us at** entertainment@inquirer.com.ph **Website:** www.inquirer.net/entertainment

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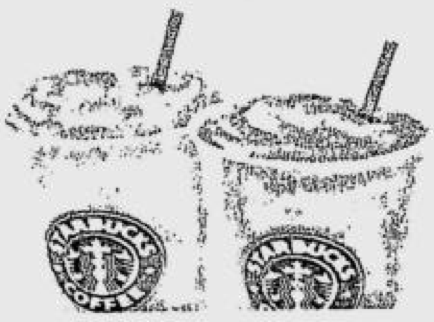

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RYAN AGONCILLO

JM GUIAO PUNZALAN

GMA 7 eyes RP 'Idol'

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

THERE'S BEEN persistent talk that "Philippine Idol" is moving from ABC 5 to GMA 7 for its second season.

"We've heard that," confirmed Perci Intalan, ABC 5 head of creative and entertainment production. "But last week, we were still discussing with FremantleMedia ("Idol" franchise holder) … about producing not only 'Philippine Idol,' but also 'Asian Idol.'"

"Philippine Idol" winner Mau Marcelo is set to compete with other country champs in "Asian Idol," set in Indonesia this November.

Noel Ferrer, manager of "Idol" host Ryan Agoncillo, told INQUIRER Entertainment that his talent was committed to do ABC 5's "Asian Idol" special—which would feature the preparation of Marcelo for the regional contest.

According to Intalan, ABC 5 is all set to continue the local "Idol." However, he admitted that it was not entirely "inconceivable" for GMA 7 to be in talks with Fremantle because it's producing the local version of 'Celebrity Duets' and is airing 'Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?' [on sister station QTV]. Both are Fox shows. I wouldn't be surprised if other networks would be interested, 'Idol' generated a lot of buzz for ABC 5."

RYAN CAYABYAB RODEL ROTONI

Option no guarantee

Although ABC 5 has the "option," it's not "assured" of a second season, said another source.

A GMA 7 insider confirmed, "The network is in the process of short-listing celebrity judges for 'Idol'."

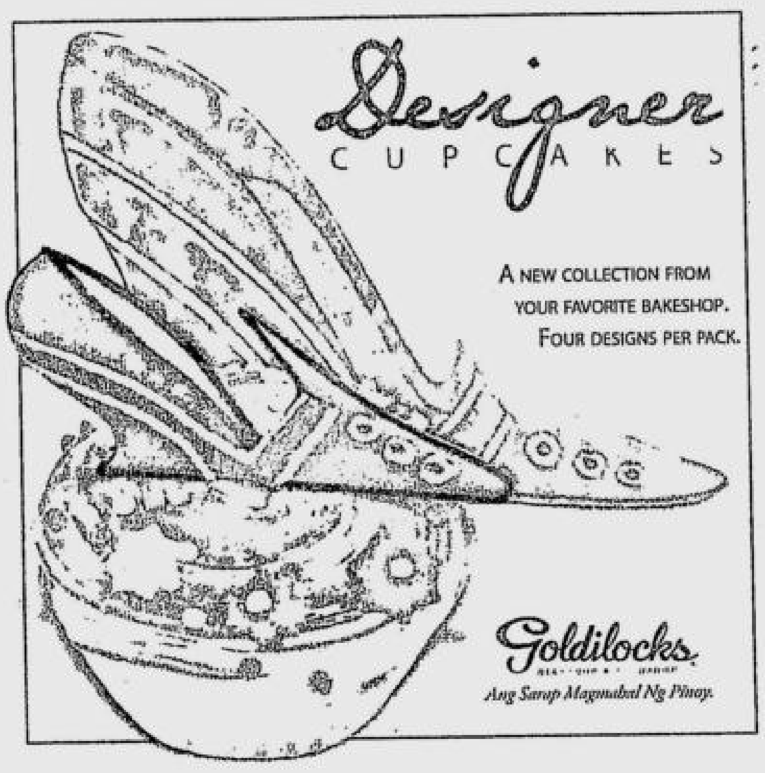
However, according to the source, host Ryan Agoncillo and main judge Ryan Cayabyab are both still attached to the show.

Sought for comment, Ryan Cayabyab insisted, "[I am not] part of the 'Idol' package; I'm just a hired talent. The producers are free to get whoever they want [in my stead]."

GMA/ F3

Stop bickering!

MTRCB chair Marissa Laguardia, center, steps into the fray, urges Joey and Willie to "patch things up." Page G1.



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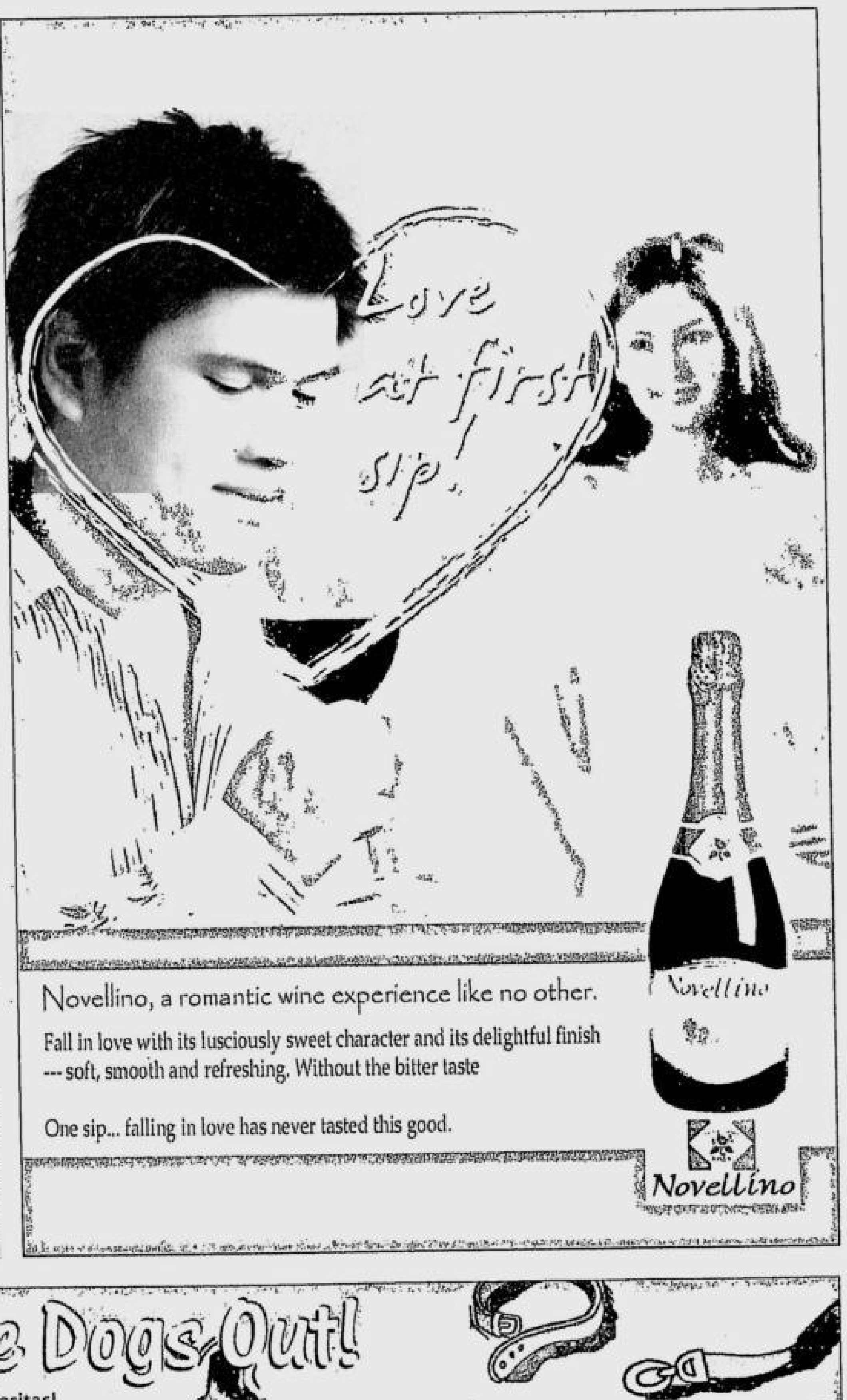

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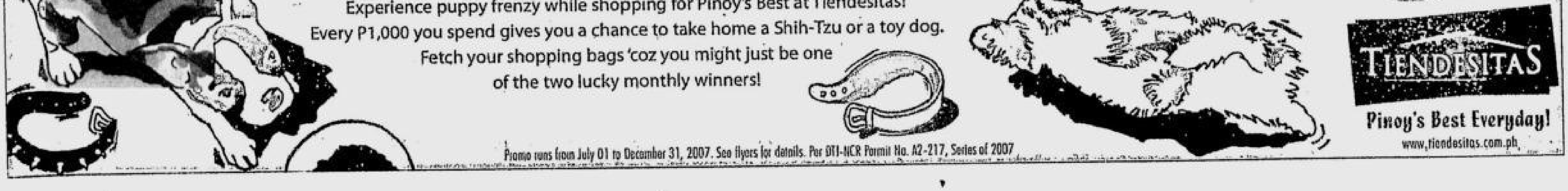

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4 DON'T LOOK BACK 1:10 3:20 5:30
5 THE INVASION 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
6 RUSH HOUR 3 1:00 2:55 4:50
7 MY KUYA'S WEDDING 12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
8 A LOVE STORY 12 20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
9 EVAN ALMIGHTY 1:50 3:50 5:50 7:50 9:50
10 THE LAST LEGION 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

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1 THE INVASION 12:35 3.00 5:25 7:45 10:00
2 DON'T LOOK BACK 12:00 2.00 4.00 6.00 8.00 10:00
3 THE LAST LEGION 12:35 2:50 5:05 7:20 10:00
4 1408 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
5 A LOVE STORY 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00
6 MY KUYA'S WEDDING 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00
7 RUSH HOUR 3 12:00 2:00 4:00
EVAN ALMIGHTY 6:00 8:00 10:00

METRO EAST

Ticket Price: P100 / P110 682-8193 / 682-8199

1 DON'T LOOK BACK 12:50 2:50 4.50 6.50 9.00
2 MY KUYA'S WEDDING 11:05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9.05
3 A LOVE STORY 10:35 1:05 3:45 6:25 9:05
4 THE INVASION 11:05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05
5 EVAN ALMIGHTY 11:00 1:00 3:00
BOURNE ULTIMATUM 4:50 7:00 9:10
6 HAIRSPRAY 11:00 1:00 3:00
RUSH HOUR 3 5:00 7:00 9:00
7 1408 11:30 1:55 4:20 6:45 9:10
8 THE LAST LEGION 11:05 1.35 4:05 6:35 9:05

NOVALICHES

Ticket Price: P90 / P100 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 A LOVE STORY
2 THE INVASION
3 1408
4 DON'T LOOK BACK
5 EVAN ALMIGHTY
6 MY KUYA'S WEDDING

PIONEER

Ticket Price: P100 / P110 687-6376

1 1408 1:10 3:35 6:00 8:25
2 THE INVASION 1:40 4:00 6:20 8:40
3 THE LAST LEGION 1:40 4.00 6:20 8:40
4 EVAN ALMIGHTY

STA. ROSA

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (049) 837-0907

1 RUSH HOUR 3
2 RISE
3 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
4 A LOVE STORY

LIPA

Ticket Price: P90 (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
3 RUSH HOUR 3
4 A LOVE STORY

DASMARIÑAS

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2 A LOVE STORY
3 EVAN ALMIGHTY
4 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
5 1408

IMUS

Ticket Price: P100 (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

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2 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
3 THE INVASION
4 1408
5 A LOVE STORY

ANGELES

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1 1408
2 A LOVE STROY
3 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
4 THE INVASION

TARLAC

1 A LOVE STORY
2 RUSH HOUR 3
3 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM

STARMILLS

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1 1408
2 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
3 A LOVE STORY
4 THE INVASION
5 EVAN ALMIGHTY
6 RUSH HOUR 3

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2 RISE
3 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
4 RUSH HOUR 3
5 A LOVE STORY
6 EVAN ALMIGHTY / BOURNE ULTIMATUM

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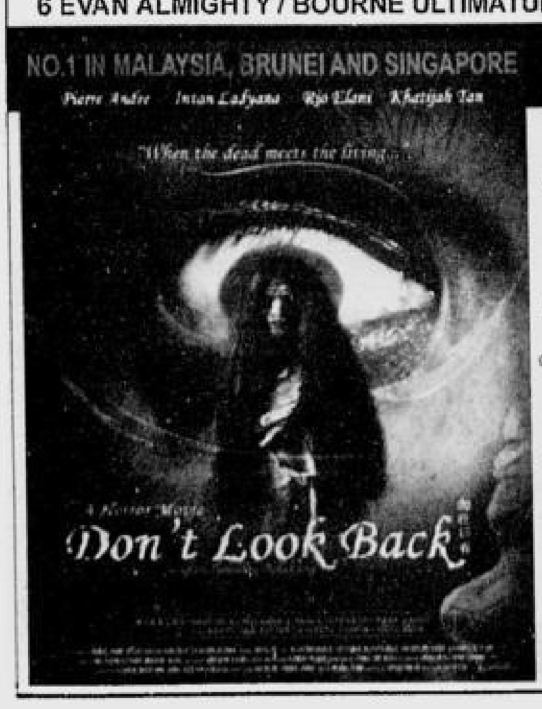
2 A LOVE STORY
3 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
4 THREE
5 SINKING of JAPAN
6 RISE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"When the dead meets the living..."
A Horror Movie
Don't Look Back

Don't Look Back

This horrifying and mysterious story is about a young man named Darma (Pierre Andre) who attempts to know the cause of death of Rose, his fiancee (Intan Ladyana), who was found dead in mysterious circumstances. Darma must now work with Rose's twin sister Seri to solve the mystery behind the death.

They begin their investigation with a visit to Rose's house, where Darma finds a bottle, and Rose's digital camera, which only deepens the mystery.

Bringing these unusual evidences home, Dharma finds himself facing horrifying events that flings his life into chaos.

Given a vacation by his boss (Jalaludin Hassan) at work, Darma seeks the help of his aunt Mak Lang (Khatijah Tan), who lives with her daughter Lin (Rio Elani).

At Kampung, Darma and Seri discover the shocking truth that whatever happens, they should never dare LOOK BACK, because when life meets death, anything can happen!

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DEAUVILLE, FRANCE—Actor Michael Douglas said on Thursday he would be "very happy" if Hillary Clinton became the next US president. "I would like my president to have pillow talks with (her husband and ex-president) Bill Clinton," he said. *AFP*

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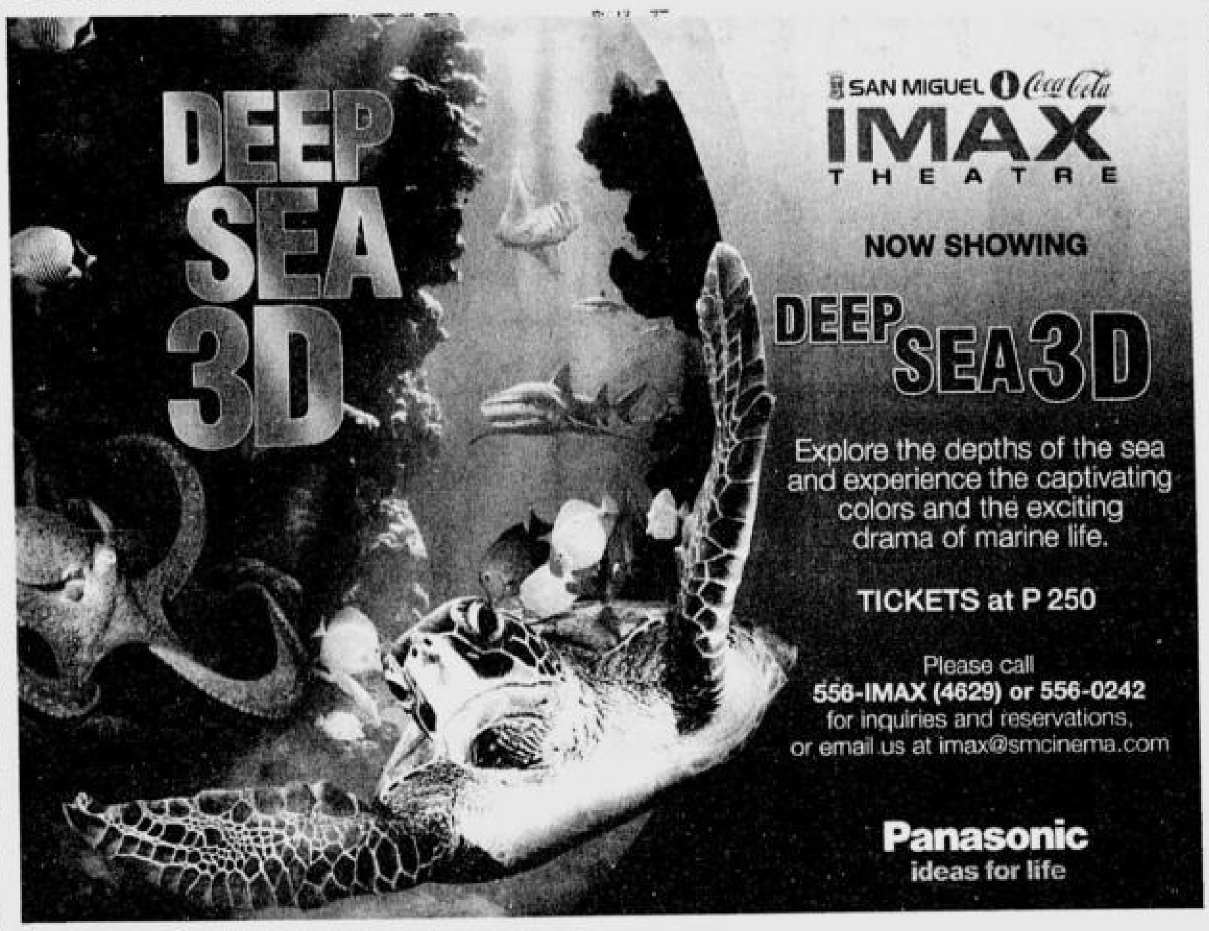

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3 INVASION
4 LAST LEGION
5 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
5 DON'T LOOK BACK

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3 1408
4 EVAN ALMIGHTY
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8 HAIRSPRAY
9 RISE
10 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
11 LAST LEGION
12 INVASION

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2 1408
3 INVASION
4 A LOVE STORY
5 LAST LEGION
6 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
7 EVAN ALMIGHTY
8 RUSH HOUR 3

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3 INVASION
4 A LOVE STORY
5 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
6 EVAN ALMIGHTY

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3 A LOVE STORY
4 MY KUYA'S WEDDING

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2 BLADES OF GLORY
3 1408
4 EVAN ALMIGHTY
5 RUSH HOUR 3
6 INVASION
7 RISE
8 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
9 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
10 A LOVE STORY
11 HAIRSPRAY
12 DON'T LOOK BACK

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1 INVASION
2 EVAN ALMIGHTY
3 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
4 LAST LEGION
5 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
6 OUIJA
7 1408
8 A LOVE STORY
9 HAIRSPRAY
10 RUSH HOUR 3
11 DON'T LOOK BACK
12 RISE

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1 1408
2 INVASION
3 EVAN ALMIGHTY
4 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
5 A LOVE STORY
6 RISE
7 LAST LEGION
8 DON'T LOOK BACK
9 RUSH HOUR 3
10 BOURNE ULTIMATUM

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1 1408
2 INVASION
3 LAST LEGION
4 EVAN ALMIGHTY
5 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
6 A LOVE STORY

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888

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2 A LOVE STORY
3 EVAN ALMIGHTY
4 INVASION
5 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
6 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
7 RUSH HOUR 3
8 LAST LEGION
9 DON'T LOOK BACK

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055

1 INVASION
2 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
3 1408
4 LAST LEGION

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240

1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 RUSH HOUR 3
3 1408
4 LAST LEGION
5 HAIRSPRAY
6 INVASION
7 RISE
8 BLADES OF GLORY
9 A LOVE STORY
10 DON'T LOOK BACK
11 EVAN ALMIGHTY
12 MY KUYA'S WEDDING

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04

1 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
2 EVAN ALMIGHTY
3 A LOVE STORY
4 1408

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917

1 1408
2 EVAN ALMIGHTY
3 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
4 A LOVE STORY

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975

1 1408
2 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
3 INVASION
4 LAST LEGION

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04

1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
3 A LOVE STORY
4 BLIND DATING

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2 1408
3 INVASION
4 OUIJA
5 A LOVE STORY
6 MY KUYA'S WEDDING

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2 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
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4 RUSH HOUR 3

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2 A LOVE STORY
3 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
4 RUSH HOUR 3

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2 A LOVE STORY
3 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
4 1408

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1 1408
2 A LOVE STORY
3 INVASION
4 MY KUYA'S WEDDING

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1 A LOVE STORY
2 RUSH HOUR 3
3 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
4 RISE

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998

1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 EVAN ALMIGHTY
3 A LOVE STORY
4 1408
5 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
6 RUSH HOUR 3

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884

1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
3 A LOVE STORY
4 RISE

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422

1 LICENSE TO WED
2 SINKING OF JAPAN
3 RUSH HOUR 3
4 A LOVE STORY
5 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
6 EVAN ALMIGHTY
7 RESERVED
8 MY KUYA'S WEDDING

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876

1 INVASION
2 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
3 EVAN ALMIGHTY
4 1408
5 SIGNOS
6 A LOVE STORY
7 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
8 RUSH HOUR 3

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010

1 A LOVE STORY
2 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
3 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
4 LICENSE TO WED

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*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

COME AS YOU ARE International film festivals? No big deal. Come in your happiest mood and/or most comfy gear! French writer Frederic Beigbeder, above, arrives at the opening of the American film festival in Deauville, France, prancing in his tux. French singer Charlelie Couture, far right, a member of the jury at Deauville, donned his favorite walking shorts. British actress Vanessa Redgrave, above right, leaves a hotel during the 64th Venice International Film Festival wearing a granny scarf. Also in Venice, George Clooney, right, didn't bother to shave. REUTERS

GMA 7 eyes ...

From page F1

A network insider said Fremantle had reportedly "recommended" that the two Ryans still be part of the show's second season.

However, Cayabyab reiterated, "Wherever the 'Idol' show is aired, I hope that it will continue to promote Filipino talent. I'm all for anything that helps the Pinoy artist."

Ongoing

Another network insider insisted that GMA 7 was still negotiating with Fremantle.

"Talks are ongoing. Nothing is final yet," said the insider.

GMA 7 is reportedly eyeing a February 2008 launch for its "Idol."

Sure deal

What is certain, though, is that GMA 7 will do the local version of "Are You Smarter," with Janno Gibbs as host, the network insider said.

In the end, according to sources both from ABC 5 and GMA 7, the fate of "Philippine Idol" rests on ABC 5 big boss Tony Boy Cojuangco and Fremantle.

"Whether or not the show will continue on ABC 5 is entirely up to him and Fremantle," said the source.

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CINEMA 4 THE LAST LEGION 11:10 , 2:00 , 4:50 7:40 , 10:30 PG-13
CINEMA 5 THE INVASION 10:30 , 12:50 , 3:10 5:30 , 7:50 , 10:10 PG-13

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MUSIC MUSEUM

September 15 , 2007	Rico J. w/ Ruffa Mae	8:00 PM
September 22 , 2007	Jett Pangan, Michael De Mesa, Ricky Davao	8:00 PM
September 29, 2007	Sugarfree	8:00 PM
October 08 & 09,2007	"Alamat" Stageplay	[illegible]

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① INVASION MTRCB PG-13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
② HAIRSPRAY MTRCB GP 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30
③ EVAN ALMIGHTY MTRCB GP 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
④ 1408 MTRCB PG-13 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30
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EVAN ALMIGHTY G 1:40,3:50,6:00, 8:10,10:20	LAST LEGION PG13 12:50,3:15, 5:40,8:05	THE INVASION PG13 1:10,3:30,5:50, 8:10,10:30

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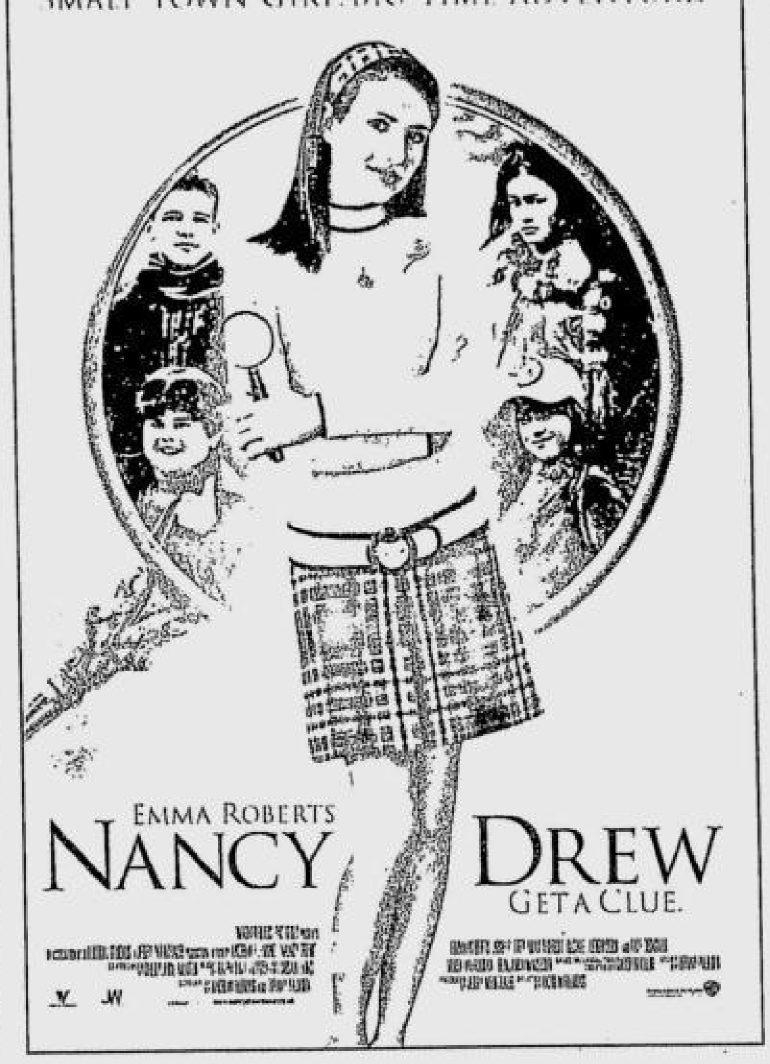

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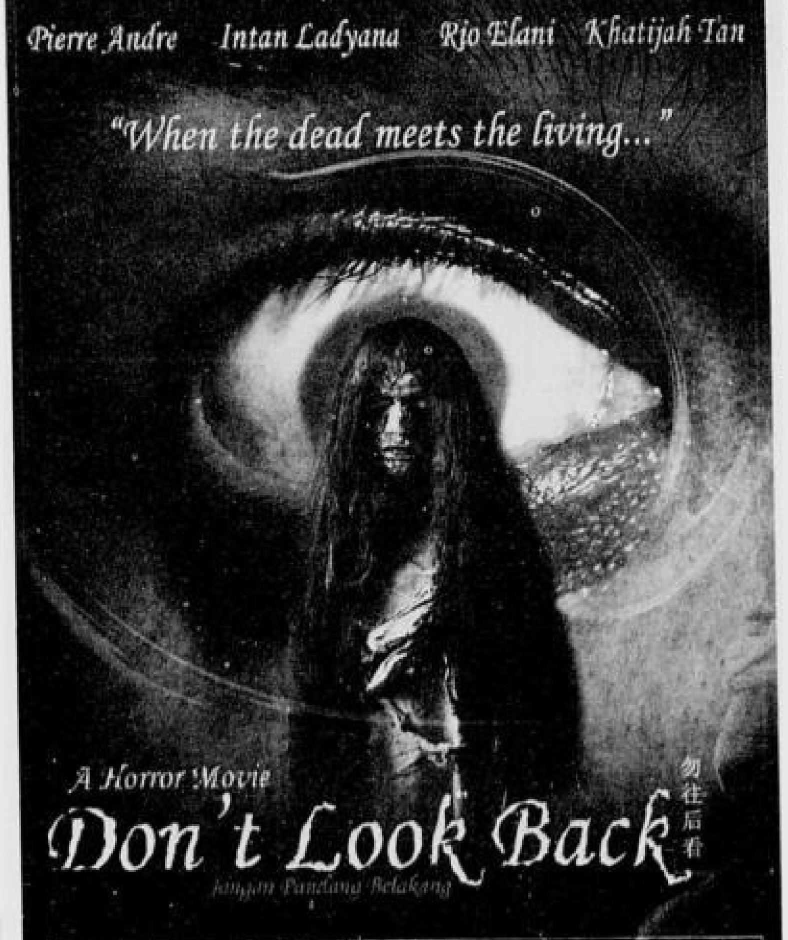

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3 A LOVE STORY
4 MY KUYAS WEDDING

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4 MY KUYAS WEDDING
5 RESERVED

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6 EVAN ALMIGHTY
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8 MY KUYAS WEDDING
9 A LOVE STORY
10 DON'T LOOK BACK

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3 THE INVATION
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3 THE INVACION
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4 1408

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2 A LOVE STORY
3 RUSH HOUR - 3
4 BOURNE ULTIMATUM

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2 A LOVE STORY
3 RUSH HOUR - 3

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2 A LOVE STORY

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2 THREE

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3 A LOVE STORY
4 LICENSE TO WED
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1 MY KUYAS WEDDING
2 RUSH HOUR - 3
3 A LOVE STORY
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Kjwan on Ikon win: They were scared of us

Text and Photos by Jude Thaddeus Bautista, *Contributor*

THE MALAYSIANS WERE SCARED OF whoever would win in the Philippine finals," Kjwan lead singer Marc Abaya told screaming fans recently at Capone's Bar in Makati, where the celebration for the band's triumph at the Asean Ikon grand finals was in full swing.

"To be honest with you," Abaya went on, "any one of the Ikon finalist bands here could've kicked ass and won in Kuala Lumpur. Our country is home to the best musicians in the world!"

Kjwan had gone through a tense moment against Kala and True Faith at the Philippine finals. Guest judge Jose Mari Chan had considered True Faith as "more melodious than the other bands."

But Carlos Sison, former True Faith guitarist who now plays with Francis Magalona, described Kjwan's music, thus:

Distinct appeal

"If you listen closely, it has a strong funk influence. What people don't realize is that this music is representative of how rock is currently evolving. They've been around for four years and they really deserve it. I'm proud of Kjwan."

Asean Ikon is a contest for professional singers and bands whose talents deserve wider exposure in the Southeast Asian Region.

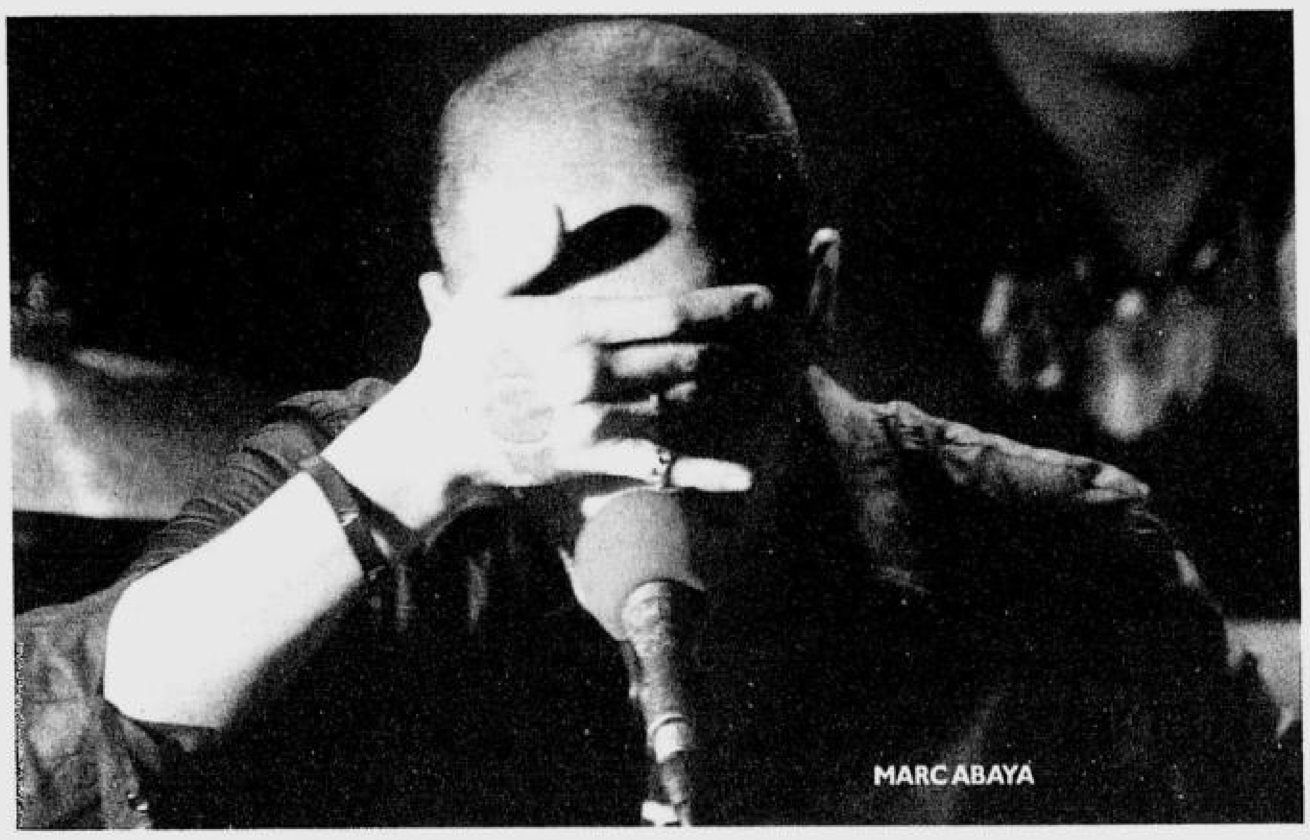
Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines fielded contestants, who were required to perform original songs written for, or by, them.

Vina Morales won in the singers category while Kjwan was adjudged the best in the bands division. Both took home $25,000 in cash prizes.

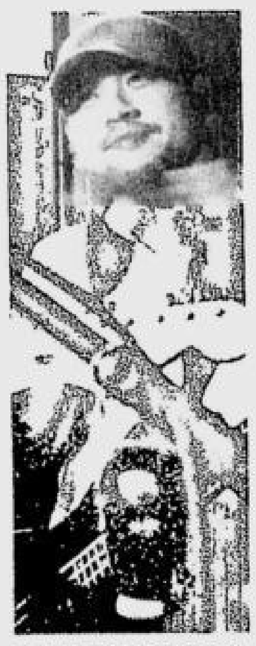
Cool funk metal

The Malaysian band OAG was a heavy favorite while the Indonesian group Tahta had its own set of fans in Malaysia. But it was Kjwan's cool brand of funk metal and distinct appeal that clinched the title.

What made the grand finals different from all qualifying rounds was that the winner would be determined solely by a panel of judges. (In the elimination rounds, a certain percentage was allotted for text voting.)


MARC ABAYA

Marc Abaya: 'Any of the Pinoy finalists could've kicked ass in Kuala Lumpur. Our country is home to the best musicians'


KELLY MANGAHAS

KJWAN at the victory party.

Each country was represented by one judge: Mac Chew (Malaysia), Hedi Koes Enday (Indonesia) and Eugene Villaluz (Philippines), plus Iskandar Mizra Ismael (Singapore).

On finals night, Kjwan, whose members all wore black silk suits, performed "Invitation," a track from its second album "Two Step Marv."

Vina Morales' first song was "Pangako Sa 'Yo." Her heartfelt rendition conveyed an emotion that broke the language barrier.

In a cell phone interview, Vina's male Indonesian competitor, Judika, said, "I didn't know what the words meant but I felt it was about love. Vina has a beautiful face and an incredible voice. I really want to collaborate with her soon."

Yet Vina had one more ace up her sleeve—her own dance tune, "Feels So Nice." She pulled off one impossible dance move after another.

Her G-Force dancer lifted her off the ground and then spun her around with her arms raised as if she was flying. And then the other partner handed her the mic just in time for her to belt out high notes, without her voice faltering.

At that point, the Malay crowd had given her a standing ovation.

Goose bumps

Kjwan drummer J-hoon Balbuena said, "The whole crowd got goose bumps when they found themselves singing along to "Pangako Sa 'Yo." Abaya added, "Vina won their hearts. She was amazing."

Balbuena added, "I think the judges proved they weren't biased by thinking of the kind of music that's reflective of Asia. They judged regardless of genre and race. OAG is a great band whose songwriters had a peculiar sense of humor. But we're also quite different. Hopefully, we've reached a wider audience."

Ikon Philippines Artists Management Director Twinky Lagdameo described the friendships and camaraderie that developed between the performers from each country.

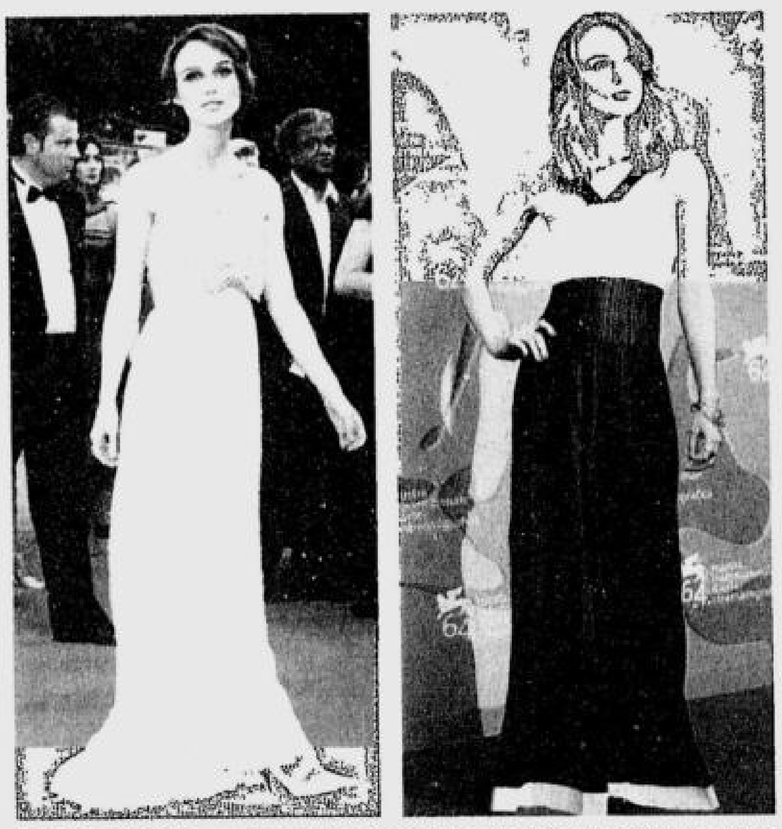
Sincere, professional

"Everybody was so supportive and professional. You could see that they were all sincere. Some of them want to collaborate with each other. And there's so much great music out there that we don't know about," Lagdameo said.

Kjwan bassist Kelley Mangahas echoed Twinky's sentiments. "We are humbled by the experience. OAG's members are really nice guys. They're very respectful. We've even made friends with them."

Lagdameo explained that the goal of Ikon was achieved. She said, "As people and as artists, all the talents were in top form. The winning part is good for the Philippines. My choices and musical instincts were validated by other people in the region. We proved that with the right opportunity we really can make it."

Fans who missed the grand finals, the Philippine finals and the semis may log on to Pulse.ph.


THE ACTRESS, here shown in Venice, is suspected of being anorexic. REUTERS

Focus on films, not my figure, says Keira

VENICE—BRITISH ACTRESS Keira Knightley has had enough of media's fixation with her looks and figure, and urged people to focus on her films instead.

Promoting her latest movie, "Atonement," the 22-year-old star of the hit "Pirates of the Caribbean" franchise fielded queries about her curves during a news conference here.

"It's really frustrating, particularly when you have an intelligent film," she told Reuters. "It's a thought-provoking film you can have a really good discussion about."

She added: "It's just a shame that it had to be brought up ... we all knew it was [coming]," she added, referring to the cast and crew of "Atonement" with her at the conference.

"We actually had a bet going. I was like 'Come on, how many times [is] anorexia or something about my body, going to come up?'"

Knightley is the subject of constant tabloid press coverage of whether she is anorexic, what example she sets girls and young women and who she is linked with romantically.

"I think what I want to keep it about is the work, that's all I'm interested in," she insisted.

Nominated for an Oscar in the 2005 film "Pride and Prejudice," the actress said she was her own worst critic.

"If you really want me to cut my part to pieces," she said, "I absolutely can and I don't want to get to a day when I can't."

Reuters

Fall Out Boy plays Sept. 21 at the Big Dome

FALL OUT BOY (FOB), AN AMERICAN ROCK band from Illinois whose current album has gone straight to the top of the charts, performs on Sept. 21 at the Araneta Coliseum.

Formed in 2001, FOB is composed of Patrick Stump (lead vocals, rhythm guitar and primary composer), Pete Wentz (bass guitar, backup vocals and lyricist), Joe Trohman (lead guitar) and Andy Hurley (drums).

Influenced by such bands as Green Day, the Descendents and the Smiths, FOB has won several awards for its debut album, "From Under the Cork Tree" (MCA Music). Released in 2005, the album went double platinum, selling more than 2.5 million copies in the US alone.

In February 2007, the band released "Infinity on High" to major chart success, reaching no. 1 on the Billboard 200 and selling 260,000 copies on its first week. The lead single, "This Ain't a Scene, It's an Arms Race," was no. 1 on the Pop 100 and no. 2 on the Billboard Hot 100.

Tickets to the Araneta concert are available at MTV online. Log on to www.mtvphil.com, view your choice of seats and reserve your tickets. Those who buy their tickets online will bring home an exclusive collector's edition MTV All Things Rock t-shirt.

FALL OUT BOY

SHOW TIME

Music, magic, 'lugaw'

The Asian Social Institute (ASI) celebrates its 45th foundation anniversary with "Music, Magic and Lugaw" on Sept. 8 at the Makati Skyline, World Trade Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

The event features singers Sophia Mozo and Enrique Marcos, street magic performers Leidan and Majic Sarmiento of the Story Circle, and the Aquias String Quartet.

ASI, founded by the late Rev. Fr. Francis Senden, CICM, is a graduate school of the social sciences on Leon Guinto, Manila.

Call 815-4938, 815-6925 or 523-3483.

Switchfoot at Cuneta

Switchfoot, a Grammy-nominated alternative rock band from San Diego, California known for its energetic live shows, is set to play at the Cuneta Astrodome in Pasay City on Sept. 10.

The group first gained mainstream recognition after the inclusion of four of their songs in the 2002 movie "A Walk to Remember." This led to the recording of its major label debut, "The Beautiful Letdown" (Sony BMG), which was released in 2003 and sold over 2.6 million copies, featuring the hits "Meant to Live" and "Dare You to Move."

The current members are Jon Foreman (vocals, guitar), Tim Foreman (bass, backing vocals), Chad Butler (drums), Jerom Fontamillas (guitar, keyboard, backing vocals) and Drew Shirley (guitar).

Switchfoot, which originally was a surfing term, is often referred to as a "Christian band," due to its involvement with the Christian rock scene in its early days. But the band has always shunned this label.

"For us, it's a faith, not a genre," says Jon Foreman. "We've always been very open and honest about where the songs are coming from. For us, these songs are for everyone. Music has always opened my mind."

SWITCHFOOT

Acoustic at the Park

May Bayot and Kearney Amarillo are the featured artists in the "Acoustic at the Park" concert series for the whole month of September at the UCC Park Café, Glorietta Park, Makati.

Bayot, also known as Acoustic Jive's lead vocalist, sings jazz, pop, rock, R&B, the blues and reggae every Wednesday.

Amarillo covers Aretha Franklin, Gladys Knight, Barbra Streisand, '70s Motown, '80s pop hits plus '90s favorites every Saturday.

Call 818-7442 or 818-7447.

Bar tour

The progressive emo-metal band Hardboiledeggz, grand prize winner of the 2006 Red Horse Muziklaban Rock Challenge, continues its bar tour to promote its debut album "Lunar" (Viva Records).

KEARNEY AMARILLO

MAY BAYOT

Show dates are on Sept. 5 (Magnet Café Katipunan), Sept. 12 (Club Dredd Eastwood City) and Sept. 13 (19th East Sucat).

Guest band is Mayonnaise plus 18 other groups from Baguio and Manila.

Showtime is at 10 p.m.

Tonight

Family Affair at Merk's Bar & Bistro, Level 3, Greenbelt 3, Makati.

Call 757-4720 or 757-4721.

Tomorrow

Aretha and the Souled Out Band at Merk's Bar & Bistro.

Call 757-4720 or 757-4721.

Sept. 5

May Bayot at UCC Park Café.

Merk & Friends featuring Eddie Katindig, Richard Merk and Judith Banal at Merk's.

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Concentrate on entertaining–Laguardia

By Marinel R. Cruz

JOEY DE LEON PDI PHOTO

MARISSA LAGUARDIA

WILLIE REVILLAME PDI PHOTO

"BE GOOD ROLE MODELS TO YOUR RESPECTIVE audiences; concentrate on entertaining them and improving your shows."

This was the "motherly advice" given on Saturday by Chair Marissa Laguardia of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board to bickering TV noontime variety show hosts Willie Revillame and Joey De Leon.

Laguardia initially refused to step into the word war occasioned by a mistake committed by Revillame on ABS-CBN's "Wowowee" on Aug. 20, and which was construed as manipulation of a high-stakes (P2 million) game on the show.

De Leon had subsequently made vague allusions to the incident on GMA 7's "Eat Bulaga!" which he cohosts.

But on Saturday, the MTRCB chair "called the attention" of Malou Choa-Fagar, "Eat... Bulaga!" producer, after the board received complaints from viewers on the latest comments made by De Leon and his co-host, Vic Sotto.

"*Bumabawi na naman kasi si* Joey (Joey's hitting back again)," Laguardia said of her decision to call Choa-Fagar.

Revillame's Aug. 20 fumble and De Leon's subsequent on-air ribbings had culminated in the former's "breakdown" on his Aug. 29 show, during which he accused De Leon of picking on

CONCENTRATE/ G2

In search of the elusive X factor for xFM

Grappling with 'Bristol,' 'house,' 'techno' 'trance' and 'electronica'

By Pocholo Concepcion

AL Torres and Raymund Miranda

YOU TURNED ON THE RADIO, SET THE FM dial to 92.3, and your mind wandered off, on to different movie settings—running away with Scarlett Johansson in "The Island" or plotting with Tom Cruise in "Mission Impossible."

At times, you slid into a contemplative state. The next moment, you'd be having such a good time that it felt like you were driving around town in breezy weather, with no traffic.

This was the aural atmosphere induced by the music from the station that used to go by the name Joey. It is now known as xFM, and for the past four months, it has been experimenting with a free-form play list you won't hear anywhere else—except perhaps in dance clubs, or in parties that wind down at sunrise.

Much of the music on xFM can't be called "songs" in the conventional sense. That's because many of them don't have vocals, at least no more than short phrases (like, for instance, "Let's make love tonight ...") spoken with atmospheric studio effects.

It gets more complicated if you try to decipher what the station plug says is xFM music. It's fairly easy to understand "chill out" or "downtempo"—basically, laidback electronic music. (In fact, "chill out" has become part of contemporary English; it means "cool down" or "relax.")

But what about "Bristol" (where "trip hop" and "drum 'n' bass" were supposedly born), "house," "techno" "trance" and "electronica"? Strange words, especially to 40-year-olds weaned on the Beatles and the Stones.

Maybe that's why the station's management recently edited out that plug, and concentrated on hyping its call letters over and over: "This is ... xFM."

What it actually plays are various offshoots of dance music— types that were all the rage abroad from the late 1980s till about 2002 at all-night warehouse parties and raves.

In these gatherings, the DJ was king,

IN SEARCH/ G2

DID YOU KNOW...

Gandolfini as Vaccaro

NEW YORK—JAMES Gandolfini follows up his role as fictitious mobster Tony Soprano by playing real-life sports scout Sonny Vaccaro in an HBO film.

The movie, "ABCD Camp," is about the youth basketball camp established by Vaccaro, the man who got Michael Jordan to sign the first million-dollar shoe deal at Nike.

Confirmed

HBO spokeswoman Angela Tarantino confirmed the project—first reported by Variety—is in development with HBO Films.

The Vaccarro film will not be Gandolfini's first return appearance on HBO after concluding his eight-year run on "The Sopranos" in June. He is executive producer of "Alive Day Memories: Home from Iraq," which premieres Sept. 9.

AP

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Richard, Aga, Mark: Lights, camera, reaction!

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THIS PAST WEEK, SOME LUMINARIES HAVE been attracting more than their share of attention, for different reasons. Let's see who come into focus on our Viewfinder. Lights, Camera—Reaction!:

Richard Gutierrez

What's up for GMA-7's top young-adult male draw after "Lupin"? Let's hope his new series will be more age-appropriate. He was really too young to play his last series' slick and savvy master sleuth with complete believability.

In the movies, Richard now has a problem: His loveteam-mate, Angel Locsin, has left GMA-7 and GMA Films, leaving Richard in the lurch. Their romantic tandem was a bankable one, and it isn't easy to come up with another profitable combination to replace it.

Will Richard have to bide his time before making another movie for GMA? That can't be good for his big-screen career, so careful planning and damage control are in order.

Aga Muhlach

The country's top rom-com male lead has impressed everyone with his drastic weight loss. Some people say he dropped 60 pounds, but an insider intimates that it's more like 35. Whatever, the loss is still impressive.

Trouble is, his face hasn't fared as well. As his current movie, "A Love Story," shows, Aga's weight loss has made him look haggard, which isn't good for an idealized film star. In some scenes, he looks like Al Pacino's younger brother.

But our friends in the health and beauty biz assure us that, with expert supervision, Aga can plump up his face while maintaining his buff bod.

GUTIERREZ

MUHLACH

GIL

Mark Gil

"A Love Story" was a viewing treat for us partly because it reintroduced us to Mark Gil, who played the supporting role of Maricel Soriano's ex-husband. Mark had only a few scenes in the movie, but he made all of them count with his insightful performance.

As we watched Mark onscreen, we flashed back to his starring role in Mike de Leon's "Batch '81," where he was so good that we thought he could make it in foreign movies, too.

Now that he's caught viewers' attention again in "A Love Story," we hope Mark gets bigger and more substantial roles from here on in. Trouble is, he looks older than his age, no thanks to his receding (receded!) hairline. We urge him to do something about this.

Lucy Liu

The new horror film, "Rise: Blood Hunter," stars Lucy Liu as a "dead woman walking." She plays an investigative reporter who uncovers a secret cult that attracts the young hipsters of LA.

'Fluid'

The Ateneo's Theater Arts seniors presents Floy Quintos' "Fluid," ongoing at the Fine Arts Studio Theater. Three couples discover true art in the midst of a pandemonium that looks into hypocrisy and the awakening of exhausted creative spirits." Performances run weekends until Sept. 16.

Feedback

From Gerly de Castro, TV Advocacy Group, Alabang Chapter: "In Channel 2's 'Margarita' at 6:20 p.m. on Aug. 14, one title character was shown singing in cabaret attire with a man touching her legs, kissing her arms and neck, and waving money at her. Scenes like this suggest that the soap should be taken off early prime time, when there are many children viewing, and shown later in the evening."

In search of the elusive X factor for xFM

From page G1

working the crowd with all sorts of records and mixes that seemed better appreciated with laser lights and the drug Ecstacy.

That scene died a natural death but gave birth to clubs that play chill out music. But then there's supposed to be a new, revitalized rave scene abroad, although people would rather be called "clubbers" instead of ravers now, and the events they attend are referred to as just "parties."

In any case, is there a local audience large enough for xFM to attract as listener base? While it's true that there was a local rave scene several years ago and there are more clubs now around Metro Manila with DJs playing techno, downtempo and the whole caboodle of electronic dance music, is that cool enough to hear on radio on a daily basis?

Apparently, there's a major adjustment going on at the station. The moody and atmospheric sounds that used to greet us in the mornings are now few and far between. What is supposed to be the centerpiece music is heard only on Wednesdays and Sundays through the syndicated Ministry of Sound franchise in England.

Pop and light jazz

Lately, daytime programming on xFM is veering towards a combination of pop and light jazz.

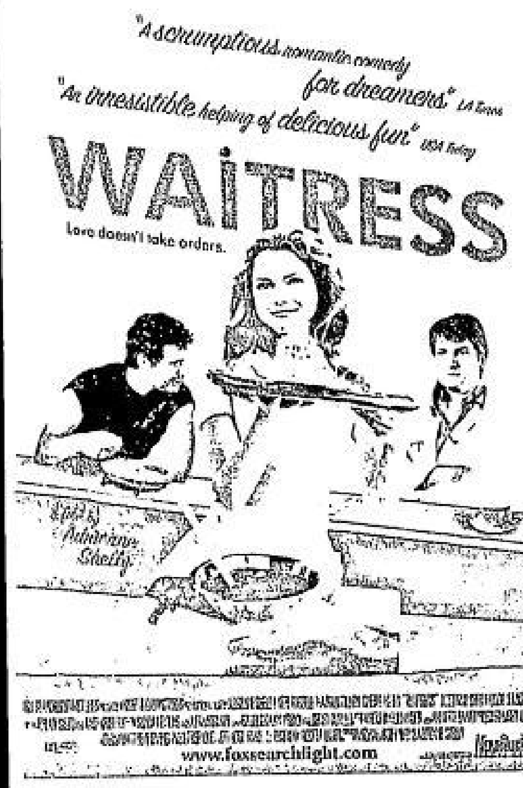
How else to explain Michael Franks on a Sunday morning? Or Bruce Hornsby's "The Way It Is," Phil Collins' "Easy Lover" and "In the Air Tonight," Cyndi Lauper's "Time After Time," Ambrosia's "Biggest Part of Me" and Manhattan Transfer's "Smile Again"?

Well, Steely Dan's "Hey Nineteen" is refreshing after a long while, but isn't James Ingram's "Whatever We Imagine" or Earth, Wind & Fire's "Fantasy" too, uh, stale for a new station to mess with?

The Inquirer asked Al Torres who, as managing director, is responsible, along with president and CEO Raymund Miranda, for plotting out xFM's sound and direction. Torres explained that, although the crowd that's into electronic music (and which xFM wants to cater to) is big enough to be called a "community," it's not wise to alienate other listeners who may think the station is too elitist.

In the early weeks of broadcast and in initial press interviews, xFM appeared bent on having no talking DJs—or news reports and weather updates, for that matter—to interrupt the music. But perhaps Torres should reconsider this stance, if he wants to reach out to more listeners. Besides, how does one become acquainted with chill out music when nobody identifies the artists and song titles?

In the late '70s till about the mid-'80s, Torres did a great job as station manager of 99.5 RT. It bears watching if he can find the "x-factor" that would transform xFM into something "extraordinary," rather than the unknown mathematical variable that its first call letter signifies.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A LOVE STORY [illegible] WAITRESS 1:40 / 4:20 / 7:00 / 9:40	CHUCK & LARRY 12:30 / 2:50 / 5:10 / 7:30 / 9:50	EVAN ALMIGHTY 2:00 / 6:00 / 10:00	THE INVASION 2:00 / 4:20 / 5:40 / 9:00

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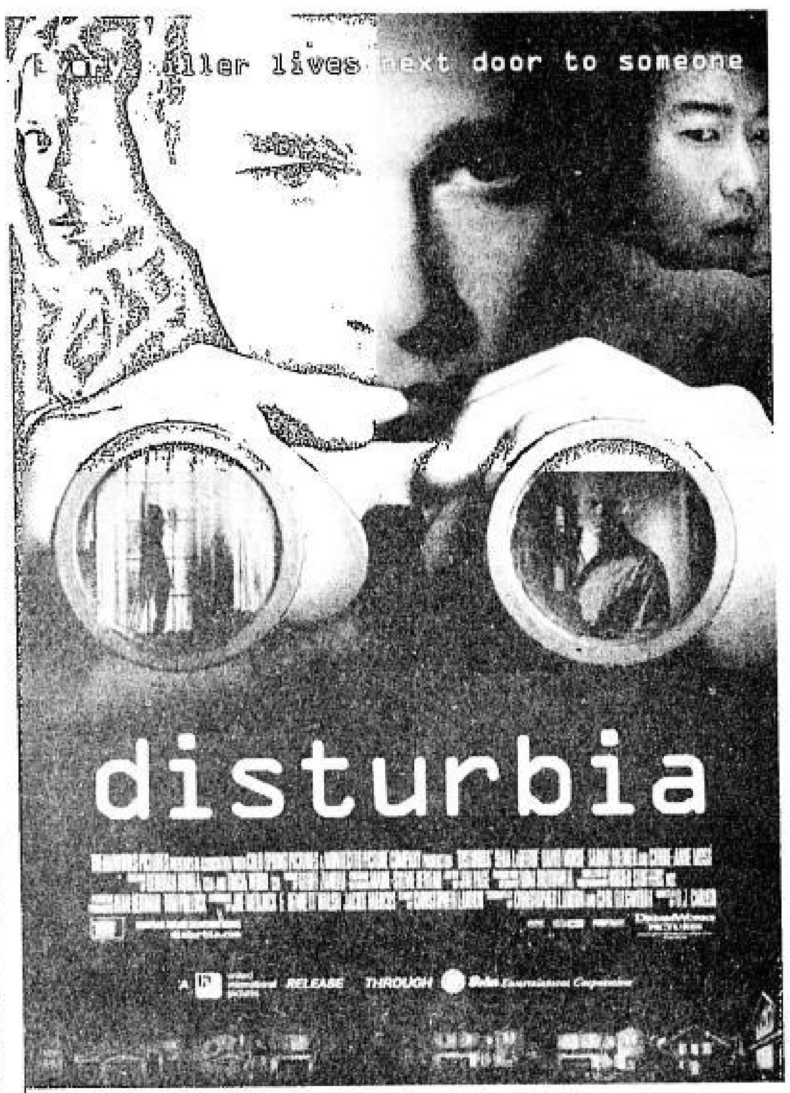
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IN THEATERS SEPTEMBER 5

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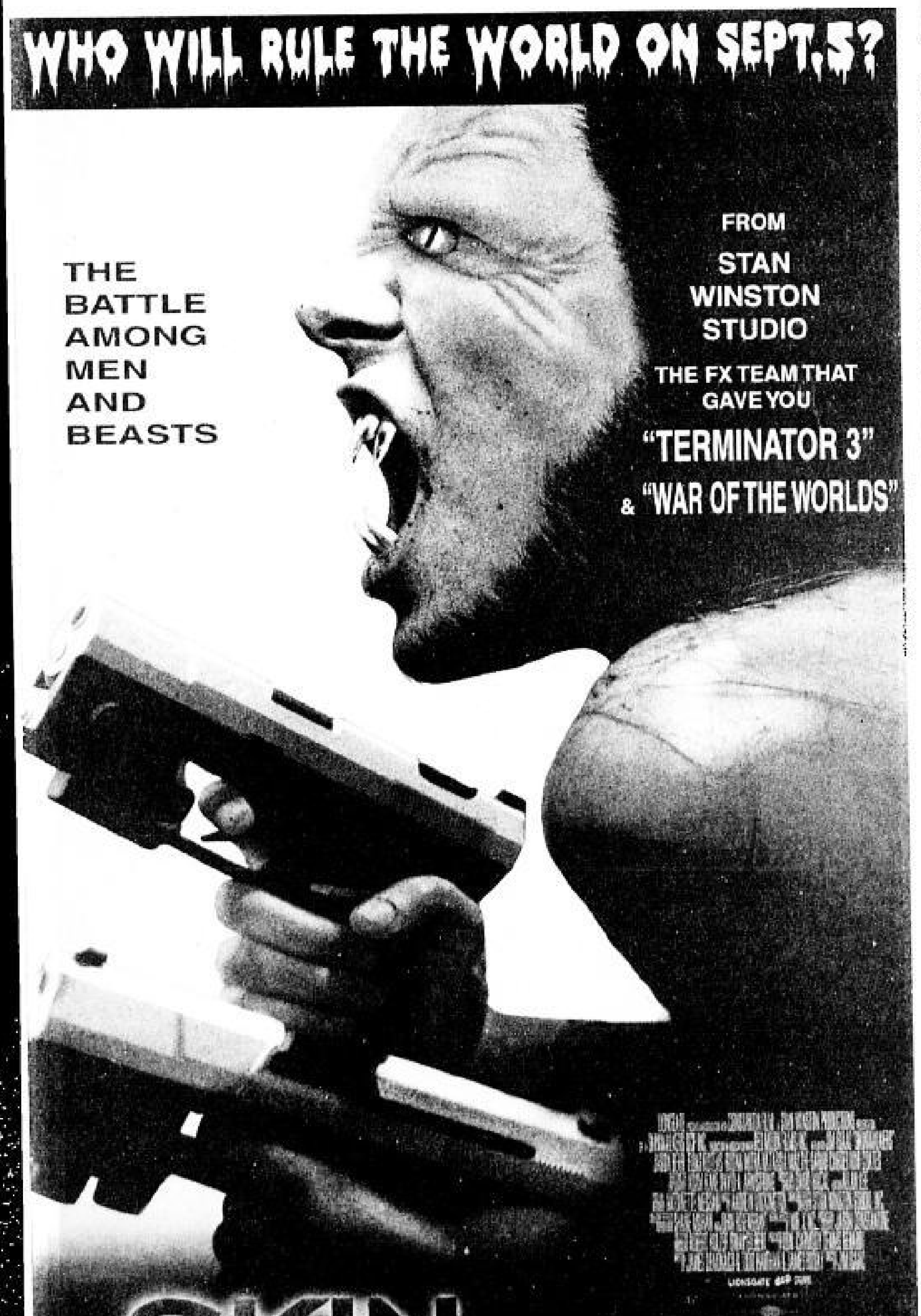
WHO WILL RULE THE WORLD ON SEPT.5?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2ND WEEK

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BEFORE KING ARTHUR. THERE WAS EXCALIBUR.
FROM DINO DE LAURENTIIS THE PRODUCER OF KING KONG
THE LAST LEGION

Concentrate on entertaining . . .

From page G1

him for no reason. "*Akala mo kung sinong malinis* (When he's not exactly clean)," Revillame said.

Which, of course, resulted in more pointed brickbats from De Leon's camp.

Laguardia met with Revillame on Thursday. And "when emotions are no longer running high," she said she would also meet with De Leon.

Not as a government official, Laguardia stressed, but as an elder.

She earlier noted that irregularities in TV game shows, if any, did not fall under the MTRCB's jurisdiction.

"I'd like them to patch things up," Laguardia told INQUIRER Entertainment. "I appeal to them to act with maturity, to be professionals, because they are idolized by a lot of Filipinos."

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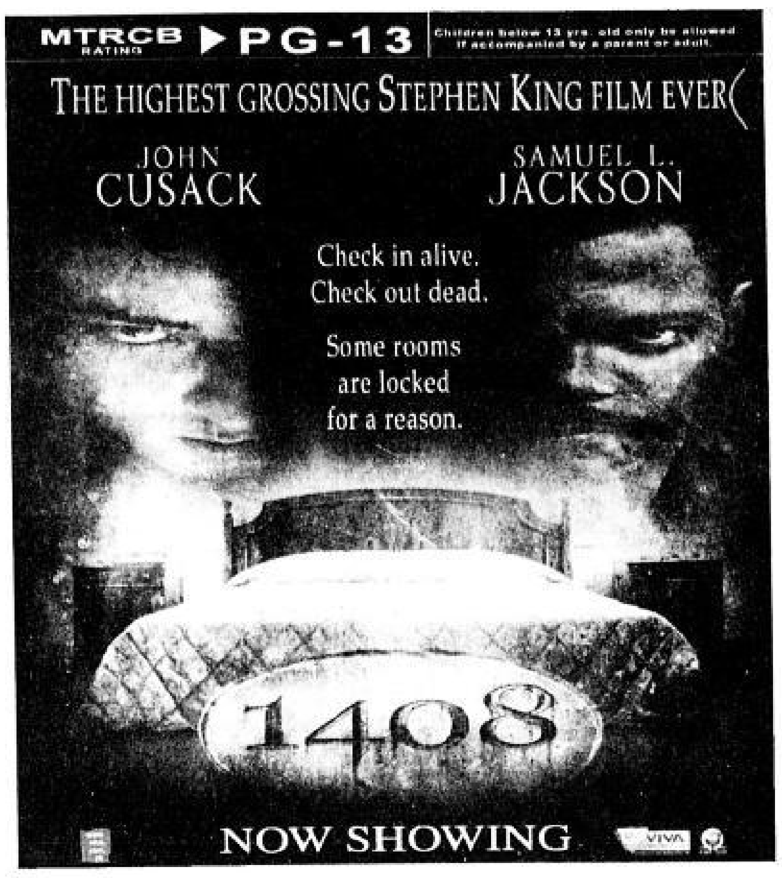

TUNDO, MAYNILA

Tribu
BAWAL PUMASOK DITO

Won Best Film in the last Cinemalaya Film Competition

This film project is based on the 2006 Palanca Award winning scrrenplay, "Tribu", about the violent lives of street gang members, young urban hiphop poets in Tondo, as seen from the eyes of a 10 year old boy. The Proponent, a broadcast journalist, poet, writer and sociologist, produced a short documentray on this hiphop/gangsta phenomenon which aired on national television in 2001. But sensing that the TV feature is not enough, he went back to his Tondo roots and spent more time with various gangs (also called "tribes." Hence, the title), further documenting their experiences and street poetry/hiphop culture. The author / proponent believes that complexities and subtleties of the story of these ppor, yet highly talented urban youth can only truly be told using the more sophisticated language of cinema.

watch this only at Robinsons Movieworld Galleria
AUGUST 29 to SEPTEMBER 11

IndieSine

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AT THE CINEMAS

THX

Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations. Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729-7777

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
GLORIETTA 1	MY KUYA'S WEDDING	THE INVASION	RUSH HOUR 3	A LOVE STORY			
GLORIETTA 4	EVAN ALMIGHTY	A LOVE STORY	THX THE INVASION GUARANTEED SEATS	ARE WE DONE YET?	THE LAST LEGION	1408	THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
GREENBELT 1	THE LAST LEGION	THE INVASION					
GREENBELT 3	THX THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM GUARANTEED SEATS	THX THE INVASION GUARANTEED SEATS	ARE WE DONE YET? GUARANTEED SEATS	1408 GUARANTEED SEATS	HAIRSPRAY GUARANTEED SEATS		
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	THX THE INVASION	1408	HAIRSPRAY	A LOVE STORY	THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM		
AYALA CENTER CEBU	THE INVASION	1408	A LOVE STORY	THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM			
MARKET! MARKET!	MY KUYA'S WEDDING	THE LAST LEGION	A LOVE STORY	THE INVASION	1408		
TRINOMA	A LOVE STORY	MY KUYA'S WEDDING	EVAN ALMIGHTY GUARANTEED SEATS	RUSH HOUR 3 GUARANTEED SEATS	1408	THE LAST LEGION / HAIRSPRAY	THX THE INVASION GUARANTEED SEATS

TRINOMA
- THX Certified
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AT THE MALLS

CONCIERGE HOTLINE NUMBERS:

Glorietta - 752 7272
Greenbelt - 757 4853 to 54
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; 772 1860
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000

Ayala Malls

glorietta	Philippine Daily Inquirer's Job Fair September 3 to 5, 2007 at the Activity Center
GREENBELT	Sounds of Greenbelt featuring: Bloomfields September 6, 2007 at the Greenbelt 3 Park
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	Anson's Exhibit September 1 to 16, 2007 at the Activity Center
AYALA CENTER CEBU	Elliot Yamin of American Idol Live! September 26; 6 PM; OnStage (Cinema 1)
MARKET! MARKET!	Lactum Mall Show September 8 & 9, 2007 at the Activity Center
Greenbelt Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids at REP's Globe Theater - Opens August 11, 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710
Ayala MUSEUM	Antiquenos: Homage to my Kasimanwas August 28 to September 10, 2007 For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
Tri Noma	Samsung Exhibit An exhibit of the latest Samsung mobile phones September 14 to 16; 10am to 9 pm; Starbucks / Food Choices Level 2

THE 1ST INTERNATIONAL SILENT FILM FESTIVAL
The Adventures of Prince Achmed
DON'T MISS CLASSIC SILENT FILMS SCORED
LIVE BY THE COUNTRY'S BEST ARTISTS

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Music by Drip
September 10 The Sixth Sense
Music by Wahijuara
September 13 A Monster Serpent
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Greenbelt 3 Cinema 2, 8PM
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glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! TriNoma

RP on the current world indie map

By Marinel R. Cruz

LAV DIAZ'S "DEATH in the Land of Encantos," about a poet whose hometown was ravaged by a typhoon, is among 13 films competing for the Artistic Innovation Award at the prestigious Toronto International Film Festival, Sept. 6 to 15.

Lav's film is up against Hana Makhmalbaf's "Buddha Collapsed Out of Shame" (Afghanistan), Jose Luis Guerin's "Dans La Ville de Sylvia" (Spain), Rolf de Heer's "Dr. Plonk" (Australia), Anahi Berneri's "Encarnacia" (Argentina), Lee Myung-se's "M" (South Korea), Michelange Quay's "Mange, ceci est mon corps" (France), Lawrence Johnston's "Night" (Australia);

Alexander Voulgaris' "Pink" (Greece), Christian Frosch's "Silent Resident" (Australia), Hiner Saleem's "Sous les toits de Paris" (France), Naqi Nemati's "Those Three" (Iran) and Dorota Kedzierzawska's "Time to Die" (Poland).

PIOLO Pascual in "Chopsuey"

The jury is composed of Dutch multimedia artist Lonnie van Brummelen, Canadian photoconceptual artist Ian Wallace and hat designer Misa Harada, according to an article on the Hollywood Reporter.

"Kubrador"

Jeffrey Jeturian's "Kubrador (The Bet Collector)" is one of 10 award-winning narratives to be featured in Global Lens 2008 at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City in January.

"These films ... represent the best of cinema from around the world--they must be seen and experienced," said Susan Weeks Coulter, board chair of The Global Film Initiative.

Also in the list are critical favorites "Opera Jawa" (Garin Nugroho, Indonesia), "Luxury Car" (Wang Chao, China), "The Custodian" (Rodrigo Moreno, Argentina) and South African comedic hit, "Bunny Chow" (John Barker).

Other featured films are "All for Free" (Antonio Nuic, Croatia), "The Fish Fall in Love" (Ali Raffi, Iran), "Kept and Dreamless" (Vera Fogwill and Martin Desalvo, Argentina), "The Kite" (Randa Chahal Sabbag, Lebanon) and "Let the Wind Blow" (Partho Sen Gupta, India).

After New York, Global Lens 2008, now on its fifth year, embarks on year-long tour of over 30 cities across the US.

"Chopsuey"

Mainstream actor Piolo Pascual is a young man forced to assume the role of a patriarch after his parents' untimely death in Catherine Camarillo's "Chopsuey."

The family drama about a Chinese-Filipino family in Ongpin is told from the point-of-view of the eldest and only son, Jimmy (Piolo). He takes care of his sisters (Andrea del Rosario, Dimples Romana and Krista Ranillo).

"Chopsuey" is Piolo's second independent film, the first being Cesar Hernando's 2006 war movie, "Kagat ng Dilim," where the multi-awarded actor plays a Huk leader.

Camarillo, a graduate of journalism from the University of the Philippines, has worked as assistant director in some of Piolo's programs and films for ABS-CBN.

"Chopsuey" will be shown in local theaters starting Sept. 5.

Ringo Starr talks about aging and how he stays in the game

BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA—FORGET "When I'm 64." Ringo Starr, 67-year-old ex-Beatle, still has the musical drive and looks of a rock 'n' roller half his age. And he acts it, too.

Seated in a swank hotel room recently in Beverly Hills, Starr looked slender in a blazer and slim-fit jeans flecked with blue pen scratches (his own scribblings, he disclosed).

His customary shades only left his face once, exchanged for a tinted pair of glasses. For the past 20 years, Starr's eyes have remained well hidden, symbolic of his rock-star cool.

"Photograph: The Very Best of Ringo Starr"—culled from his solo career and label-spanning collection of tunes from 1970-2005—descended on CD racks Aug. 28. Between sips of water, Starr cracked jokes and chatted with The Associated Press about aging, the past, and staying in the game.

How did you pick the songs for the new album?

Actually, we had a set of tracks we could use, going back to Capitol in the early days. What was great was, Capitol/EMI expanded it, which they don't usually do. Usually the label only uses [its own] tunes. They actually went and got tracks off 2005's "Choose Love" CD, off different labels. It's a great representation of the stuff I've done in the last 400 years.

Any favorites in particular? The "No-No Song," from 1974, was so facetious about hard partying.

I have great memories of when we recorded that, because the last thing any of us were doing was saying "no" in those days. "Photograph" is beautiful. That's one of the best songs I've ever written. I was writing it with George Harrison, so that also helped. In those days, and still to this day, I only play three chords. I'd write these songs, and then I'd give them to George and he would put in 10 more chords, and they'd think I was the genius.

So, Ringo, you're 67 this summer.

You'll have to speak up (laughs).

And it was also the 40th anniversary of the Beatles' "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" recently.

How great!

Reflect, if you would, on aging as a musician. You've mentioned in interviews about seeing Bob Dylan perform, and some days he's clear, and some days he's not.

That's just how he is. We were actually talking about going to see Bob, and seeing Bob many times, and you get what Bob gives you. The last time I saw him, it was hard to recognize the songs. But the time before, he was clear as a bell. Bob is great. He just had a No. 1 record and that's what it's about. I'm in the game, I'm still making records, I'm still playing.

Has the creative process changed?

It hasn't changed at all. You write your songs, you play your drums. You get some friends around, and you make a record. They would like me to make a duets album, like Santana did. I don't really want to do that. I have a lot of guests on my CDs anyway, like Chrissie Hynde and Willie Nelson.

When are you touring again?

When we go on tour—and who will go with me, I don't know yet—it won't be until next summer. I've finished my new CD, which will be out in January.

There's been a story, for years, that you used to put a packet of cigarettes on your drum snare to muffle its sound. What was that about?

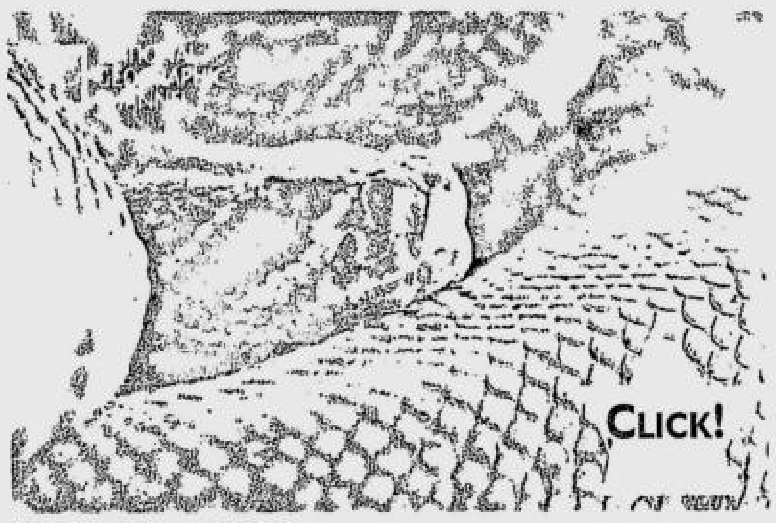
It was too bright. I've always liked a deep sound, and so I put my pack of cigarettes on it, to take it down a notch. Then I started putting tea towels on top of everything. Then I put towels on every drum.

You can use the towels to wipe off sweat, too.

Oh yes, I can! And have a cigarette after. But no, I don't do that anymore.

Solvej Schou, AP

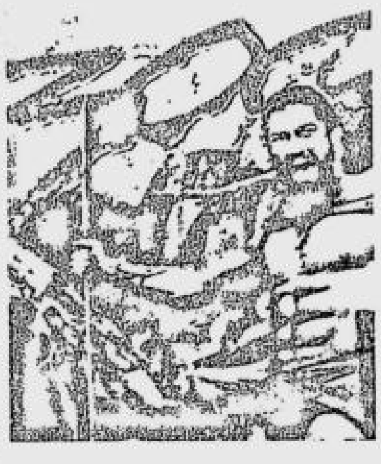
The creative process hasn't changed for him, says the former Beatles drummer.



'Striker!' on NGC

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL REVEALS THE science behind the rattlesnake strike: how this predator finds the best and most comfortable ambush sites; how it detects its rodent prey, even in the dark; and how it moves at lightning speed with amazing precision. "Striker!" airs tonight at 7.

NOW ON DISC



'300'

"300," a retelling of the ancient Greek Battle of Thermopylae where some 300 Spartans fought off a million-strong Persian army, makes a video debut through Warner Home Video.

It stars Gerard Butler as the Spartan King Leonidas and Lena Headey as Queen Gorgo.

WE ARE MARSHALL

'We Are Marshall'

"We Are Marshall" tells the inspiring story of how a small town in West Virginia struggled to cope with loss after one of the worst disasters in American sports history.

The DVD version of the movie, which stars David Strathairn, Matthew Fox and Matthew McConaughey, includes the documentary "Legendary Coaches: How Coaches Overcome Adversity."

Only 4 left in H'wood boot camp

HALFWAY THROUGH THE COMpetition, the challenge intensifies in QTV-11's "Hollywood Boot Camp," 8:30 Monday nights. Four contestants have been booted out and only four have remained.

In the pilot episode, Arvin Trinidad was eliminated. His offense? Unoriginal work.

In a challenge that called for inventive ideas, Arvin chose to reenact Mel Gibson's death scene from "Braveheart," leaving a sour impression on judges Kacy Andrews and Liam Finn.

The remaining seven contestants were split into teams in episode 2, and given the challenge of proficiency in framing and assistant directing. In the process, Team Jeepney, composed of Miguel Vasquez, Minco Fabregas and team leader Denise Aguado, established cohesiveness and won the challenge.

But all was not well with Team Rizal, composed of leader Apple Pueblo and members Chitoy Aviles, Randy Vitales and Shereen Saiyed. Questions were raised about Apple's capacity to lead, Shereen seemed unable to play with the team and group comic Chitoy Aviles became the second to get booted out.

Episode 3 took a peek inside the world of Hollywood special effects prosthetics, makeup and the creative effects of wardrobe. With both teams challenged to create a murder victim complete with an accompanying scene and background story, Team Rizal narrowly beat Team Jeepney.

Blame, conflict

While members of Team Rizal gladly received the news, Team Jeepney's chosen leader for the challenge, Miguel, blamed his members for the loss. Forgetting the cohesiveness his team had achieved in episode 2, and in a manner contradicting that of a leader, Miguel's attitude quickly got him the boot.

This same conflict continued in episode 4, with Shereen's unable to collaborate with the rest of Team Rizal. Instead of working with her team on that episode's tasks in Art and Sound, Shereen went her way and spread herself too thinly on everything except the given challenge. Her disregard for this value led to her team's loss and her dismissal from the show.

The show's ultimate winner will receive $10,000 or a film development package worth $20,000, which includes the use of Bigfoot Entertainment's state-of-the-art production and post production facilities and equipment in Mactan, Cebu.

The winner will also receive a two-year contract with Bigfoot and guaranteed work on its international film projects.

Hollywood Boot Camp's official site is www.hollywoodbootcamp.net.

SWEATING IT (from left): Miguel Vasquez, Denise Aguado, Randy Vitales (partly covered) and Apple Pueblo.

EXCLUSIVE
THIS WEEK!
EXCLUSIVE

Coke Yes! Linggo-Linggo
4
Coca-Cola

Yes-Yes-Yo Gang on the lookout for PSPs!

SONY
PSP
Coca-Cola

Yes! You win this Sony PlayStation Portable (PSP) if the message under your crown is:

YES, KAHIT SAAN DAPAT GAME!

*All winning crowns have security markings and are subject to verification and authentication by Coca-Cola representatives.

Over the past two weeks, they have been spotted out and about waiting to grab that opportunity to say Yes! to Nokia 5300 XpressMusic Phones and iPod Nanos (2GB).

This week, the "Yes-Yes-Yo" Gang, known for changing targets every week, is again roaming the streets, visiting every sari-sari store, ordering a Coke whenever they can, just to get a hold of that highly-coveted Yes! message--the one that will ultimately make them say Yes! to this week's prized possession, the Sony PlayStation Portable.

"We need that Yes! message! We gotta have it. Right now! For the PSP! *'Di kami papapigil. Lahat gagawin namin, kahit isa-isahin pa namin ang bawat* Coke *sa bawat sari-sari* store *sa bawat sulok ng Pinas,*" says one of the impassioned representatives of the "Yes-Yes-Yo" Gang, when asked about the group's current obsession with collecting Coke crowns in hopes of bagging one of the world's most celebrated game consoles.

"The PSP is everything we've always wanted—pure excitement we can access anytime, anywhere. *Astig sobra kasi* it is the first truly integrated portable entertainment system–*may* games, music, videos, photos, internet and wireless connectivity... *lahat ng* cool stuff in one," says one of the in-the-know Yes! Gang members.

Two of the Yes! gang members grant an exclusive interview

Really, how can anyone say no to a sleek piece of plastic with unmatched surprises encased underneath, such as an impressive archive of entertainment content? "*Kaya nga kung puwede lang bumili ng isang* truck *ng* Coke *para lang makuha ang* winning Yes! message *at mapanalunan ang* PSP *eh gagawin ko!*" declares a determined Yes! Gang member. "Wait, *puwede nga ba? Kasi kung puwede, o*-order *na ako ng isang* truck. NOW NA!" he then adds with so much conviction.

"Friend, *i*-order *mo na rin ako!* And make that three trucks! *Para* every week, *may* chance *ako kasi* every week *may bagong* winning Yes! message," requests a fellow Yes! member.

Yes, this is how the gang operates on high alert (which, of course, happens every single week)—no Coke remains untouched, unmoved, un-enjoyed.

So go, go, go! Stock up on Coke now. You never know, that winning message everyone is going crazy over might just be in one of your Coke crowns!

Yes! Check your Coke crowns now!

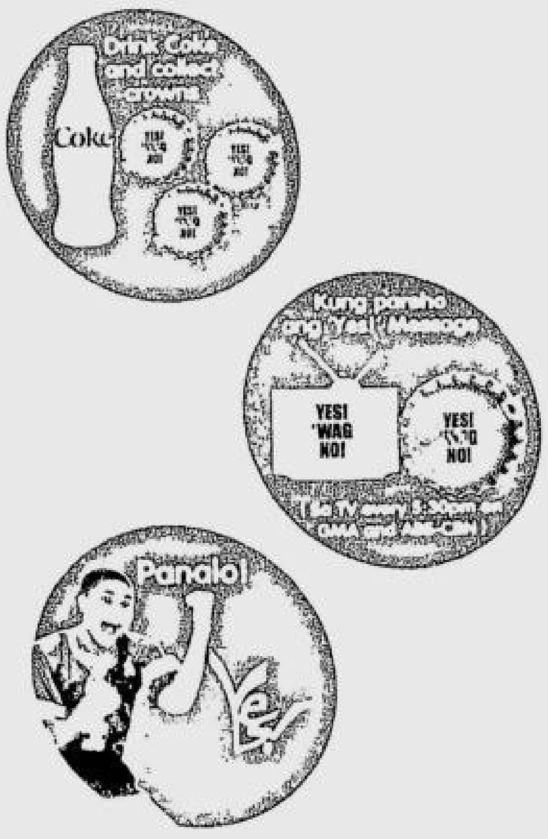
Is it your chance to say Yes! to a Sony PlayStation Portable (PSP) this week? If the message under your Coke crown is "**YES, KAHIT SAAN DAPAT GAME!**" then go ahead, with "Coke, Yes, Linggo-Linggo," say Yes to a PSP right now!

But if non-winning crowns are all you've got at the moment, just keep those YESes and never ever say no! Every week, there is a different winning Yes! message, because every week there is a different prize up for grabs. Who knows, one of your crowns might make you say Yes! next week or in the coming weeks.

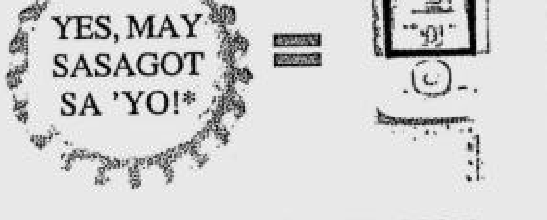
Still can't get over the PSP this week? So, what's stopping you? Just buy more Coke and look under the crown for the Yes! message. If it matches the winning message on this page and on the daily 5:30pm announcements on GMA and ABS-CBN, then Yes! you're a winner!

And Yes! You can also win instantly! Millions of Jollibee Meals (1-pc. Chickenjoy Meal, Jollibee Spaghetti Meal or Regular Yum Meal) to be given away under the crown.

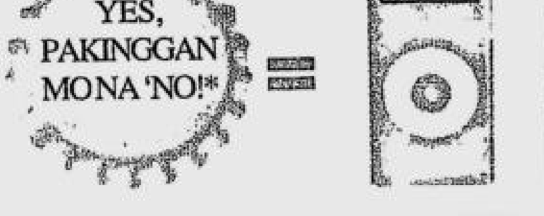
It's so easy to say Yes! to different prizes weekly!


Coke
YES! 'WAG NO!
YES! 'WAG NO!
Panalo!
Yes!

Never miss a Yes! week!


YES, MAY SASAGOT SA 'YO!*
=

Week 1 (Aug. 19 to 25, 2007)



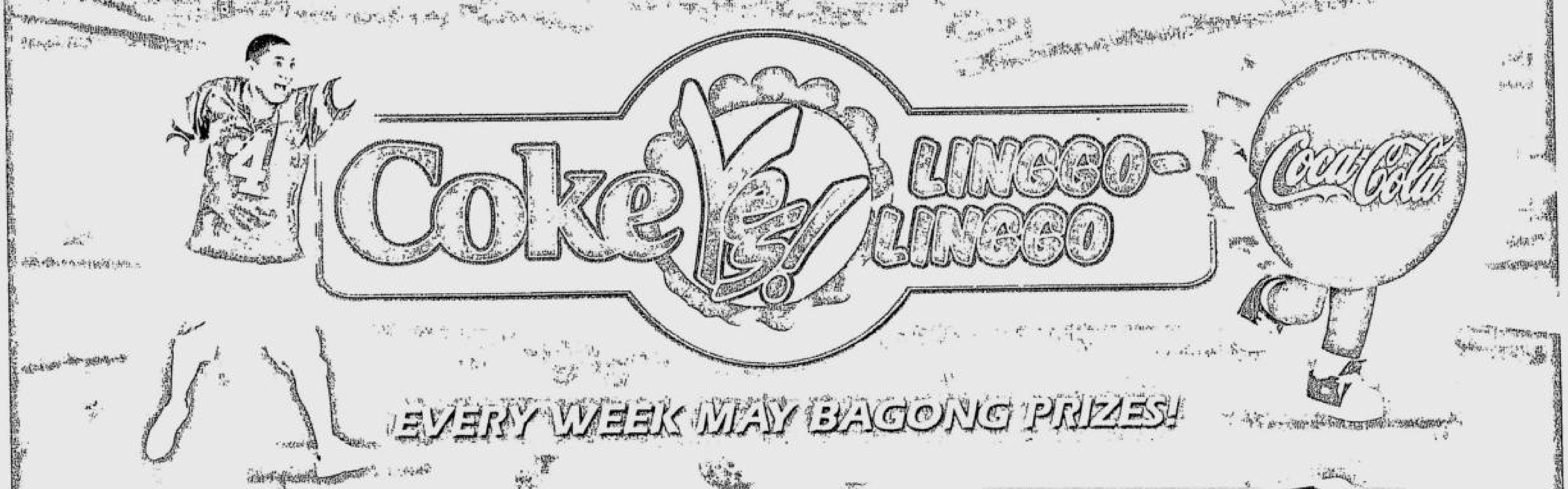
Week 2 (Aug. 26 to Sept. 1, 2007)

All prizes can be claimed until November 29, 2007

For major prize redemption, please call the Coca-Cola hotlines: 813-2653 / 813-COKE (GMA) or 1-800-1-888 2653 /1-800-1-888 COKE (Provincial areas)
Jollibee meals can be claimed at any Jollibee outlet nationwide.

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0578 series of

CHANCE MO NA THIS WEEK!



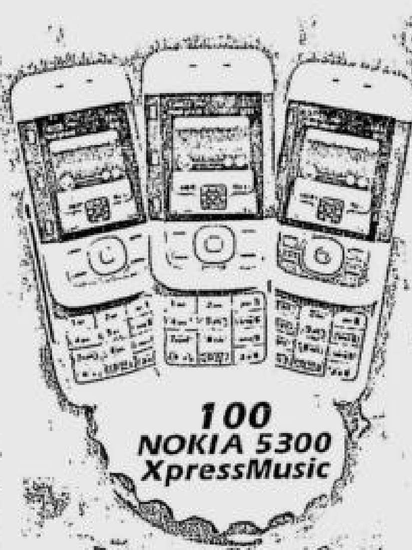
EVERY WEEK MAY BAGONG PRIZES!

50 SONY PLAYSTATION PORTABLE (PSP)

to be given away from
SEPTEMBER 2 - 8 2007
kung ang message sa crown mo ay:

YES, KAHIT SAAN DAPAT GAME!

WEEK 3



100
NOKIA 5300
XpressMusic

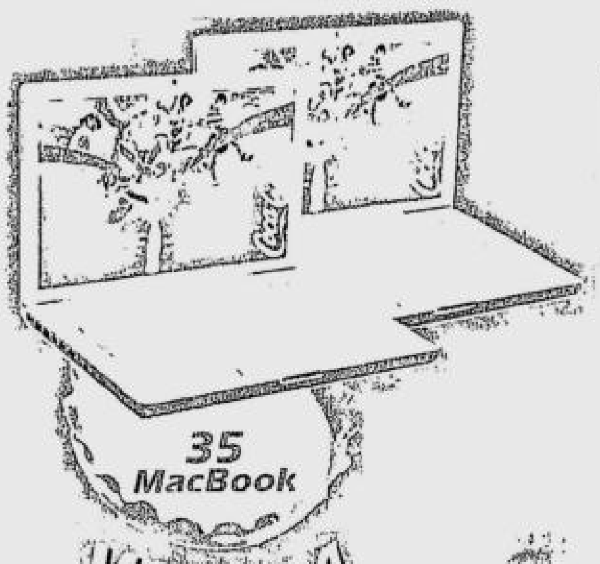
WEEK 1

Aug. 19-25 Winning mesage:
"YES, MAY
SASAGOT SA 'YO!"

50
iPod Nano
2GB

WEEK 2

Aug. 26- Sept. 1 Winning mesage:
"YES, PAKINGGAN
MO NA 'NO!"



35
MacBook

WEEK 4

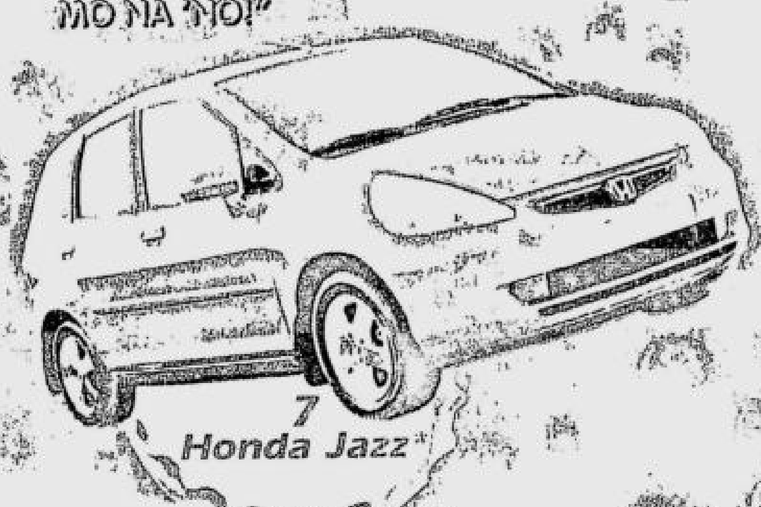
September 9 - 15

Jollibee
PLUS MILLIONS OF INSTANT
Jollibee Meals
UNDER THE CROWN!

35
Scooter
SK 125

WEEK 5

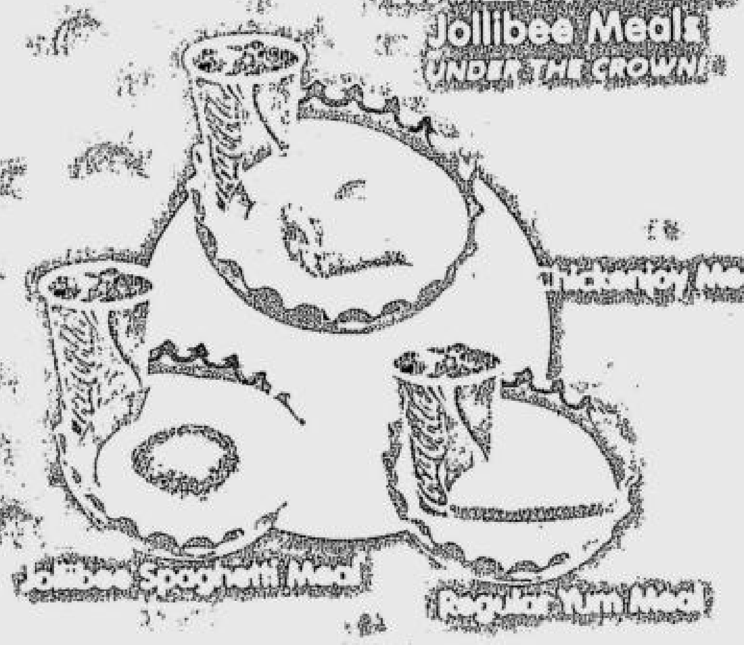
September 16 - 22



7
Honda Jazz

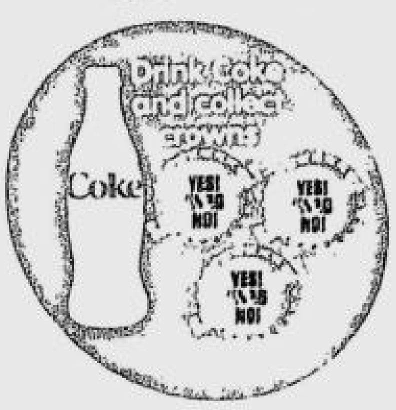
WEEK 6

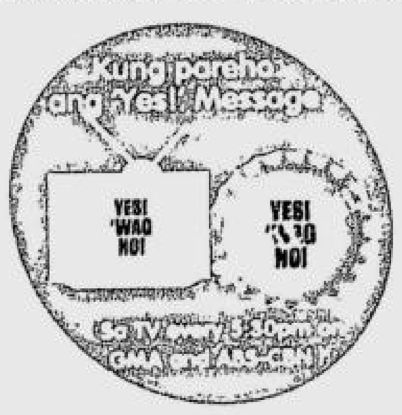
September 23 - 29



All prizes can be claimed until November 29, 2007.

MADALING MANALO LINGGO-LINGGO!


Drink Coke and collect crowns
Coke
YES! 'WAG NO!
YES! 'WAG NO!
YES! 'WAG NO!


Kung pareho ang Yes! Message
YES! 'WAG NO!
YES! 'WAG NO!
Sa TV every 5:30pm sa GMA and ABS-CBN

MAY 2 WAYS TO WIN. NAPAKADALING MANALO'T SUMALI!

A. WEEKLY MAJOR PRIZES

1. Buy any participating Coke products (Coke, Sprite or Royal 8oz or 12oz) with specially-marked 'Yes!' Crowns.
2. Look under the crown to see the 'Yes!' Message.
3. Watch for the announcements of the winning 'Yes!' Message of the week on GMA and ABS-CBN at 5:30pm daily, and on the Philippine Daily Inquirer & Inquirer Libre every Monday.
4. If the winning 'Yes!' Message of the week matches the message under the crown, consumer wins the corresponding weekly prize.
5. For instructions on how to claim the major weekly prizes, call the Coca-Cola Hotlines:

GMA	813-2653 / (813- COKE)
Provincial Areas	1-800-1-888 2653 / (1-800-1-888-COKE)

B. INSTANT JOLLIBEE FOOD PRIZES

1. Buy any participating Coke products (Coke, Sprite or Royal 8oz or 12oz) with specially-marked 'Yes!' Crowns, for a chance to win Jollibee food items instantly.
2. Look for the 'Yes!' Message under the crown.
3. If the Jollibee instant win message is under the crown, consumer wins the corresponding prize.
4. Winning crowns may be presented for verification and prizes may be claimed at any Jollibee outlet nationwide.

This is a nationwide promotion.
All prizes over P10,000 are tax free.
All winning crowns have security markings and are subject to verification and authentication by Coca-Cola representatives.
Employees of TCCEC, CCBP, Jollibee Foods Corporation, their advertising agencies, BFAD and their relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity and affinity as well as employees of TCCEC's and CCBP's subsidiaries, affiliates and service providers are disqualified from joining this promotion. Third party suppliers and their employees are also disqualified.
Decisions made by Coca-Cola are final.

Promo period is from August 19 to September 29, 2007.
Deadline of claiming prizes is on November 29, 2007.
*Photo may vary from actual unit.

Jollibee HONDA NOKIA

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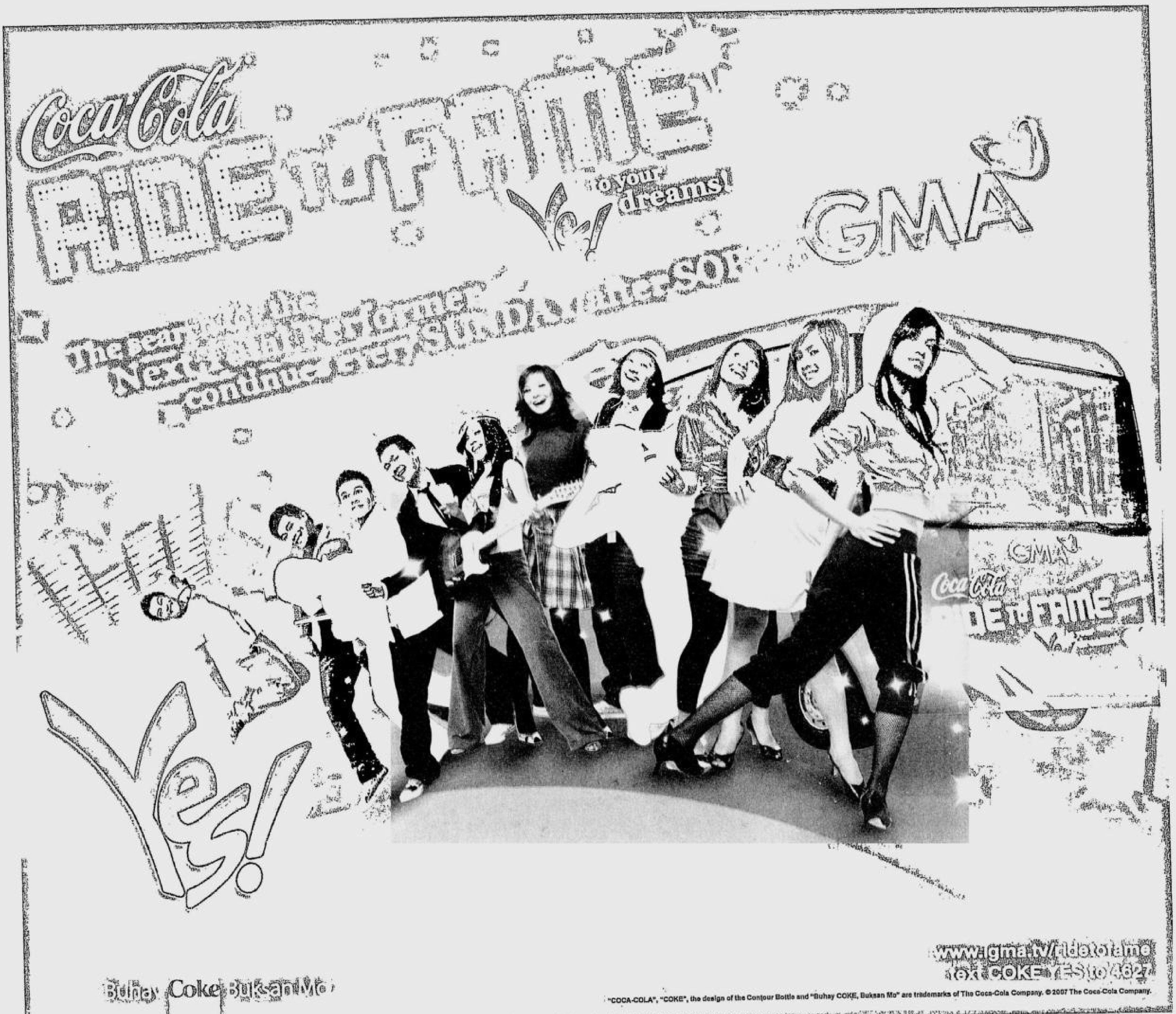
Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0578 series of 2007.


Coca-Cola
RIDE to FAME
Yes! to your dreams!
GMA
The search for the Next Total Performer continues every SUNDAYS after SOP on GMA
GMA
Coca-Cola RIDE to FAME
Yes!

www.gma.tv/ridetofame
text COKE YES to 4627

Buhay Coke Buksan Mo

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THE ROAD TRIP TO STARDOM CONTINUES FOR 10 CONTESTANTS

TWELVE GOT ON THE BUS AND SAID YES! TO THEIR DREAMS. BUT WITH EVERY CHALLENGING STOPOVER, SOME SHINE WHILE SOME ARE FORCED TO TAKE A HIKE BACK HOME.

NOW, ONLY TEN CAN ENJOY THE RIDE TO BECOMING THE NEXT BIG THING.

MAKE SURE YOUR BET REACHES THE FINAL STOP: STARDOM. YES! TEXT IN YOUR SUPPORT NOW TO WIN AN I-POD SHUFFLE!

AL

CAN AL, THE JOCK, BE THE COUNTRY'S ULTIMATE CHARMER?

Text COKE<space>
YES<space>AL

GIU

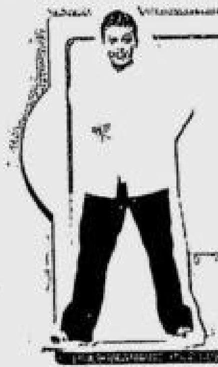
LET GIU CROON HIS WAY INTO THE SPOTLIGHT.

Text COKE<space>
YES<space>GIU

DARYL

MAKE DARYL GO FROM BOY-NEXT-DOOR TO HOT ROCKSTAR.

Text COKE<space>
YES<space>DARYL



CARL

WITNESS SMALL-GUY CARL GO BIG-TIME.

Text COKE<space>
YES<space>CARL

LEX

WILL THE MUSIC MAJOR TURN INTO A MUSIC ICON?

Text COKE<space>
YES<space>LEX

AVA

CAN AVA BECOME THE PHILIPPINES' NEXT TOP MODEL-PERFORMER?

Text COKE<space>
YES<space>AVA

OSAN

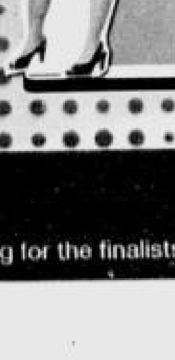
SEE OSAN BECOME THE CUTEST THING ONSTAGE.

Text COKE<space>
YES<space>OSAN

PAM

CAN PAM GO FROM BAGUIO'S COOLEST TO THE COUNTRY'S COOLEST?

Text COKE<space>
YES<space>PAM



QWYNCY

WATCH QWYNCY JOURNEY FROM THE SOUTH TO EVERYWHERE.

Text COKE<space>
YES<space>QWYNCY

CHESKA

THINK THIS MULTI-TALENTED DAVAOEÑA IS READY FOR THE BRIGHT LIGHTS?

Text COKE<space>
YES<space>CHESKA

HOSTED BY:
KAREL
DREW

SEND TO 367 FOR SMART AND TALK N TEXT SUBSCRIBERS AND TO 2344 FOR GLOBE, TOUCH MOBILE AND SUN SUBSCRIBERS. STANDARD RATES APPLY.
VOTING IS OPEN UNTIL 3PM ONLY, TODAY.
WATCH COCA-COLA RIDE TO FAME: YES TO YOUR DREAMS EVERY SUNDAYS AFTER SOP AT GMA.
Per DOH-BFAD Permit Number 2949 Series of 2007

Styling for the finalists provided by human

Saya ng family bonding
₱22
Litro
Bonding sa Buhay
Coke
Buksan Mo
Coca-Cola®